The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

VOL. XXI. AUGUST, 1917. No. 8.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the Office of the Society, 11 North Parade, on Wednesday, 25th July, 1917, at 2 p.m. Present: His Excellency the Governor (presiding); Hons. R. P. Simmonds and S. S. Stedman; Messrs. A. W. Douet, Jas. Dougall, H. Q. Levy, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead, Adam Roxburgh, Rev. W. T. Graham, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

Apologies for Absence.—Apologies for absence were received from Sir John Pringle, Hons. P. C. Cork and Dugald Campbell, who were then sitting at the hearing of the Gordon Commission, and also from Messrs. R. Craig and Conrad Watson.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been printed and circulated, were taken as read. Mr. Roxburgh called attention to the fact that the information he had given with regard to the potato bread was that it required two parts of wheaten flour and one part of potato flour, and not the reverse as was reported. With this alteration the Minutes were confirmed.

Statement of Accounts.—The usual monthly Statement of Accounts was submitted.

Matters arising out of the previous Minutes.—The following matters were considered as arising out of the previous Minutes:—

(*a*) *Office Equipment.*—The Secretary said that he had been directed by the last Meeting to refer this matter to the Office Committee for consideration, and the Committee was in favour of his proposals going forward to the Government. What he had asked for was proper accommodation for the seed which he was bound to stock to meet the demand. The sheds in the office yard were leaky, and he had the greatest difficulty in keeping the stock. Since the war, he had been obliged to have lady clerks on the staff, and there was no proper acommodation for them. He had asked also that a private room be built for their use. He reported that the Director of Public Works had sent a representative, and that he expected he would furnish an estimate of the cost. He was instructed to forward the papers to the Colonial Secretary with the request that estimates of the work required to be done might be made by the Public Works Department.

(*b*) *Lands for Cultivation.*—The Secretary said that this matter was to come up at the General Meeting, and probably the discussion might be left for that Meeting. Mr. Martin thought it wiser to discuss the matter at the Board Meeting so as to save time at the Half-Yearly Meeting. The President said that this question of securing lands for the cultivation of food crops was an old story and a difficult one. He would have to have a definite investigation made of each case before he decided on action. He had already given his sanction at least in one district where there was an actual shortage of land for cultivation, and the Surveyor General was surveying a section to be cut up and rented to settlers. On the other hand he knew of cases where certain people had applied for land, but on enquiry it was found that many of them had land of their own, from an acre upward, which they would not cultivate so long as they could possibly get other land. He said that the matter would come up again at the Half-Yearly Meeting, and next day he would make a statement on the subject, but there was no doubt that it could not be definitely settled in a hurry.

Letters from C.S.O.—The following letters from the C.S.O. were read:—

(*a*) *Coconut and Banana Diseases.*—No. 10789-13391, dated 20th July, 1917, enclosing copies of the latest reports of the Micro-biologist and an Inspector of Plant Diseases on coconut dieseases and Panama Diseases of bananas.

The President said that he had asked to have a meeting with the banana planters on the Board, and suggested that possibly it might be held before the Board meeting this month, but as that had not been possible, owing to his having so much to do with matters in connection with the Legislative Council, he still desired to meet those members of the Board to discuss the report of the Special Committee and Mr. Cousins' remarks thereon. That could be arranged at some other time.

The Secretary was directed to circulate the papers to the Board.

(*b*) *Imperial Trade Conference.*—

No. 10784-S.S. 156. 20th July, 1917.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter No. 4291-4706 dated the 28th March last, I am directed by the Governor to state for the information of the Board of Management of the Agricultural Society, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in acknowledging the receipt through His Excellency of the Board's resolution, advocating that the West Indies should be directly represented at the Imperial Trade Conference, remarks that he does not feel certain to what conference the resolution refers, but that if the members of the Society had in mind the Imperial War Conference, which has recently taken place, he would observe that at such meetings the interests of the colonies which do not possess responsible Government, are represented by the Secretary of State.

(Sgd.) ROBERT JOHNSTONE,
Actg. Colonial Secretary.

(*c*) *Coconut Fibre.*—

No. 10840-10956/17, 20th July, 1917.

"I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in November last His Excellency wrote to the Governor of Ceylon making enquiry as to methods which he has learnt were employed in the manufacture of net bags of coconut fibre in that Colony and that Sir John Anderson has been so good in response to His Excellency's enquiry as to send through the Crown Agents for the Colonies a wooden model of the machine by which such bags are made.

"I am now to transmit the model in question and to ask that it may be kept at your office for inspection by visitors."

(Sgd.) G. M. WORTLEY,
Actg. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

The model was presented as well as samples of the cord twisted rom the coconut fibre, and also samples of matting turned out by a achine of similar type to the model. There was a discussion on the uestion of utilising the coconut fibre in the manufacture of rope, n which Mr. Roxburgh said that he knew a man at Oracabessa who ade ropes out of coconut fibre which were quite as good if not superior o Manilla rope. The question was the difficulty of twisting these opes as it was all done by hand. Mr. Stedman said he had got information together some time ago about machinery for this purpose, nd he would look up the papers.

Mr. Simmonds said that the making of coir from coconut husks ad been tried some years ago in St. Mary, but had not been a success.

The Secretary suggested that the prisoners of the Penitentiary ere engaged in handling coconut fibre and making articles from it; e model of the machine might be referred to the Penitentiary together with the samples.

The President said that the Secretary might apply to the Colonial Secretary to that effect, and ask that the Penitentiary might ake a working model of the machine from the specimen sent.

Mr. Roxburgh was asked to get a sample of the rope to which e had referred for presentation at the next meeting.

Instructors' Committee.—(*a*) *Reports and Itineraries.*—The usual onthly Reports and Itineraries of the Instructors were presented, nd referred to the Committee as usual.

(*b*) *Assistant Instructors.*—The Secretary reported that the Instructors' Committee had to consider the applications for the posts of ssistant Instructor numbering 120, and had selected 10 of the most robable candidates. He had been directed to confer with the Instructors who would be attending an Instructor's Conference that evening, ith the view, if possible, of reducing the number of selected candidates 6, who would appear before the Examining Committee which would onsist of the Hons. D. Campbell, R. P. Simmonds, Messrs. A. W. ouet, W. Cradwick, and the Secretary.

(*c*) *Competitions.*—

The Secretary said he had also been directed to draw attention to e fact that in spite of there being no grant for shows at the present me, a good many Branch Societies were arranging for food product ows and for various competitions in the growing of food stuffs. It as thought this was a good indication of the interest that had been eated in the growing of food stuffs.

(*d*) Mr. Stedman said that the Committee had also referred the fact that there would be no meeting of the Committee before the xt Board Meeting, as the new Board, which would be elected xt day, would not meet to appoint its Committees until the August eeting, and the Instructors Committee had suggested that the cretary should carry on the work until the new Committee was pointed. The Board decided to act on this sugestion.

Half-Yearly General Meeting—Agenda.—A copy of the Agenda the Half Yearly Meeting was presented and discussed item by item.

On the subject of minimum prices for food crops, the President ade a statement to the effect that there was some difficulty in fixing minimum price for food stuffs. They had exercised a certain amount restraint on the sale of imported articles by fixing a maximum price, it he thought it was merely a question of supply and demand that

would regulate the minimum prices. People ought to be encouraged to hold their corn and not to sell it for less than a certain price. He might mention that the Public Works would be buying it at not less than 4/- a bushel, and the Penitentiary had been instructed to erect a drier and crusher, and they too would soon be in the market.

Mr. Douet said that he knew that certain merchants were already buying and would continue buying.

Mr. Roxburgh said that it was only a question of storing the corn and he thought that people should take advantage of the experience that they had up to the present and store their corn, which was a comparatively easy matter. The corn had to be thoroughly dried, then fanned to take out the dust, and stored in barrels with Naphthalene at the bottom. At the end of three months, the corn should be taken out, fanned and replaced in the barrels with Naphthalene.

On the matter of supplies of cutlasses and hoes there was some discussion over the fluctuating and exorbitant prices asked for these tools.

The President said that he understood that there was a large order for both cutlasses and hoes on the Sylvania which had been recently torpedoed, and that was to a large extent responsible for the great shortage and the rise in price just at the moment. He did not feel free to act in the matter of regulating the price of these articles. Importers experienced difficulty in securing their supplies, and the same difficulty would be encountered by the Government if they attempted to import. If maximum prices were fixed, the merchants had every right to refrain from importing any article if the prices were not suitable. He said that the American Consul had kindly communicated with manufacturers in the States about the manufacture of cutlasses and other tools, and that he would report results to the Government.

With the permission of the Board of Management, the Secretary read two paragraphs from the "Country Gentleman" (U.S.A.) which are published in the body of this JOURNAL.

Authorized Persons.—(*a*) *Suggestion to add agricultural tools to the Schedule.*—The Secretary said he had had several requests to bring up the subject of the addition to the Schedule under the Prædial Larceny Law, of Agricultural tools; there were also some resolutions from Branches being brought forward at the Half-Yearly Meeting for adding goats, pigs and poultry. The Special Committee had already decided that the Law being framed to deal with agricultural products, implements, animals and animal products could not come under this Law.

He was instructed to advise the parties to this effect.

(*b*) *Committee.*—The Secretary said that this matter of Authorized Persons and their duties was considered by the Special Committee some months ago, many of the Branches did not then send in their recommendations in time. He had sent notes of the decisions of the last meeting of that Committee to the Attorney General who said he was not prepared to accept those notes as the decisions of the Committee without another meeting of the Committee. He (the Secretary) suggested that two Agricultural Instructors Messrs. Cradwick and Powell and possibly a Clerk of the Courts should be added to the special committee to consider all these difficulties. The Board instructed him to write to the C.S.O. that this Society had suggested the addition

to the Authorized Persons' Committee of Messrs. Cradwick and Powell and the Clerk of the Courts for St. Mary.

Applications for Affiliation.—Applications for affiliation were received from:—

(*a*) *Free Hill.*—Mr. Simmonds said that Free Hill was not far from Preston of which it was now a Sub-Branch. He was not averse to having as many Branches as they could, but he thought that there was a possibility of a Branch being too local when it only tapped a radius of three miles. Hitherto a Branch operated over a larger area and he thought the discussions were less local than if the districts were smaller.

(*b*) *Port Morant.*—Both these applications were deferred pending further information,.

War Gifts.—The Secretary reported that the 48th shipment had been sent forward by the R. M. S. "Catalina" on the 26th June. Details would be published in the JOURNAL as usual.

(*b*) *Sweet Potato Chips.*—A letter was received from the Royal Society, London, saying that a committee was considering the suggestions with respect to dried sweet potatoes.

(*c*) *Acknowledgements.*—Acknowledgements were received from Rocky Point Battery of limes sent through the Society by Drax Hall Estate, and mangoes and magazines.

(*d*) A letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee was read as follows:—

21st June, 1917.

Dear Mr. Barclay,

Thank you for your letter, 966 of the 31st ultimo. The most acceptable gifts which you could send over, failing fruit, would be fig bananas for the troops generally, and the B.W.I. Regt.; Guava jelly for the Hospitals, White Seal cigarettes for the B.W.I. Regt., and hospital bags. All these are in constant request, and we shall have no difficulty in getting licenses to import.

As a result of our representations to the Colonial Office we have every reason to hope that the Elders and Fyffes steamers will continue to sail.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd. ALGERNON E. ASPINALL

P.S.—As the fig bananas will have to be sent abroad *it is most important* that they should be packed in cases to meet the requirements of the Military Forwarding Officer, viz., not under 11lbs. and not over 56lbs.

Shows.—Application from Upper St. David's Branch.—An application was received from Upper St. David's Branch saying that that Branch would be holding a show in February, 1918, and asking for a grant in aid from the Parent Society. The Secretary was instructed to inform the Branch that there was now no allocation for grants to shows owing to this grant having been cut down on account of the war.

New Members.—The following new members were elected:—

Howard D. Thompson, Good Hope.

E. N. Bailey, Collector of Customs, Gonaives, Haiti.

V. E. Manton (Solicitor) Kingston.

Theodore A. Gale, Crescent Villa, 11 East Wellington Street, Kingston.

Mrs. A. J. Clarke, Brook Lodge, Hagley Gap.

Hon. H. E. Crum Ewing, Mandeville.

O. L. M. Sanguinetti, St. Margaret's Bay.

S. B. H. Bravo, Saxthorpe, Constant Spring.

The Secretary said that as His Excellency had intimated that certain subjects ought not, in his opinion, to be considered by the

the item "Neglected Juveniles" last on the Agenda to be brought forward at the completion of the other business.

His Excellency then left the meeting.

* * * *

Neglected Juveniles.—Mr. Simmonds was then voted to the Chair, and the following letter from the C. S. O. was read:—

No. 10319-12446, dated 11th July, 1917.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 28th ultimo, stating that your Society does not appear to have been communicated with in connection with the report on neglected juveniles made by a special committee of your Society, a copy of which was forwarded for His Excellency's information with your letter of the 23rd February, 1914.

"I am in reply to inform you that there is a minute by the Governor on the papers relating to this matter in this office in which His Excellency recorded that he had informed your Society that there were no funds that could then be spared for large state-aided schemes of the description proposed, and that proposal in regard to the indenture of apprentices was unlikely to succeed.

"I am however to enclose for the information of your Society the accompanying copy of a precis of the replies of Parochial Boards to a circular which was addressed to them forwarding a copy of the special committee's report, and inviting their views thereon."

(Sgd.) G. M. Wortley,
Actg. Asst. Colonial Secretary.

ENCLOSURE.

Boards of *St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny, Westmoreland, Manchester and Clarendon* endorse scheme without reservation.

St. Thomas agrees, but recommendations affecting Parochial Boards beyond their resources.

Port Royal gives usual support, but also unable to help financially—scheme would be difficult to operate. Concurs in (1) of Agricultural Society scheme.. *Government to gradually establish Industrial Schools and Refuge Homes.*

St. Andrew agrees in Society's scheme as a preliminary to (1) The Homes, etc.; should be as much as possible self-supporting.

St. James' Board concurs in recommendation (b) making no remarks on other proposals. To the contrary.

Portland says impracticable for Poor Relief Officers to perform the duties and *Government* should appoint a Special Officer, *Boarding out juveniles* will not cope with the evil. Government should establish Industrial Schools and Refuge Homes when practicable.

St. Elizabeth submits paper from its Chairman, the late Hon. J. M. Farquharson, who did so much to make the Manning Home successful.

This paper submits Laws 34/81, 19/89, 3/93 and 19 of 98 enable, after certain amendments, *Neglected Juveniles* to be dealt with. Take the poverty stricken children of poverty stricken parents. He instanced success of the *Manning House* in reducing thieving and the *death rate*. Suggested a short Law creating—

(a) *Rescue* Homes—
(b) Incorporating Industrial Schools Laws in Rescue Homes Law,
(c) Finance Provisions;
(d) Amending Sub-section 3 of Law 34 of 1881, to establish Rescue Home in any parish Governor might appoint;
(e) A Court dealing with children only, but parents, guardians, and Court Officers to be present.
(f) Rules for Rescue Homes.

If sufficient cultivable land added Homes might, in a year or two, be almost self-supporting.

St. Catherine Board concurs in the Agricultural Society's proposals, except—

(d) *Re* Guardians—*Refractory and truant* children should be dealt with by a J.P. in Petty Sessions, otherwise no power to compel child to remain with anyone.

Age of apprentices—Boys 12-17; Girls 10-15. Board strongly urge an Industrial School on Agricultural Society's lines should be established, eventually, though Government may not *now* be prepared for the outlay required.

The Secretary was instructed to refer the matter to the Committee on Neglected Juveniles.

The meeting then adjourned until Thursday, the 16th August

COCOE ROT.

Colocasia Esculenta.

The Cocoe here referred to is, of course, the root elsewhere known as Tania or Taro, and Eddoe.

The Hon. H. Cork, of Park Mount, Port Antonio, has persistently been drawing the attention of this Society to the matter of cocoe rot in Portland, stating that it was killing out the cocoes in his district, and that as these were a hurricane-proof product, they were especially valuable. He asked that the Society pay special attention to this matter. Specimens were sent to the Microbiologist some years ago who reported on them and made recommendations as to treatment. (See JOURNAL for Nov. 1912, p. 576.) The trouble about these recommendations, is, that small settlers will not carry them through, because cocoes are mostly grown on rented land, and to drain and lime this land, is what a tenant will not do. The preventive and remedy is to plant only sound cocoes on land that has not been occupied with the same crop for several years. Where cocoes are planted on heavy wet land, trenches should be put through at least 2ft. deep, the same as for bananas. Where the disease is prevalent, no leaves and stalks should be flung down on the ground, but put in a heap and burned. Although burning land is not a very good principle as a rule, yet if a field that is full of cocoe rot could be burned over, it would do good. To do this, it would be necessary to bring sticks and trash on to the field, and this a tenant on land will not probably do. Those, however, who grow cocoes on their own land will naturally be more concerned than tenants of land; to these we recommend draining, and liming or burning over the land. It is especially necessary, however, that no cocoe heads from infected fields should be used. Cocoes are largely grown on land fresh cleared from wood, and these are rarely attacked in the first few years, so that fresh cocoe heads can usually always be got.

The whole question of cocoe rot was referred to our Agricultural Instructors for enquiry and report. They found that those who grow cocoes did not seem to be very much concerned about cocoe rot but stated that the trouble did cause loss. All troubles of plants as well as animals should be promptly checked, otherwise there is no saying how much they may spread, at any time.

We publish a few of the Reports from our Instructors:—

Cocoe rot is well-known as it occurs in all parts of the Island, where cocoes have been cultivated for any length of time. Commander and White and Jeremy, which are the best varieties, are most susceptible. Bourbon also known as Milady and Sally, is susceptible to a less degree. Minty seems altogether immune. In my experience, where a careful selection of "bits" is made there is no fear of losing the first year's crop as rotting will not set in before the fingers are sufficiently mature. A second year's crop is generally risky. "Bits" should be taken from only perfectly sound heads and the tool which has passed through a rotting head should be thoroughly cleaned or disinfected before the process of "bit" cutting is continued. Planting from suckers which have sprung up in an old field should never be done as these are generally the growth from fingers left in

the ground when heads had rotted out. Such suckers are infected with the disease and although growth may be vigorous at the start they will be short-lived. In wet districts drainage will help. A dark brown discolouration of the stands of tissues inside the stem of a lower leaf as may be seen by cutting across is an indication that rotting has set in. If removed at once food for man and pigs may be obtained and infection to the soil to be transmitted to other plants minimised.

S. A. SCHLEIFER.

Agricultural Instructor,
Chapelton.

This is a trouble that I have often mentioned in my reports as causing serious loss in this district, and I believe will eventually end (if no precautionary measures are taken to combat this disease) in the best varieties of our cocoes being killed out. I have time and again sent samples of diseased "heads" to Mr. Ashby.

1. The disease is prevalent and there are instances where men have lost 40 to 50% of their crops and plants. The disease seems to spread more rapidly on certain soils, particularly if it is not well drained.

2. Diseased plants undoubtedly affect neighbouring healthy ones if allowed to remain undestroyed when the plants show symptoms of having the disease. The symptoms are as follows:—(a) Unthrifty appearance while *others are in flourishing condition.* (b) Black streaks running up the leaf stalks. (c) If tubers are formed before infection takes place, these invariably sprout forming suckers around the mother plant. (d) A net work of black or brown streaks in the head when cut lengthwise.

3. The varieties Leftman, (or Black cocoes) White and Black Bourbon, Bamboo, Jeremy, White Duke, are susceptible to the disease. The Minty a quick, hardy and prolific bearer, but an inferior kind on account of its causing an itch when used for food seems practically immune from cocoe rot. Another disadvantage is that pigs do not care for the heads.

4. As far as I can make out there is a substantial loss going on year after year, and the cultivators would welcome any investigation that would lead to the eradication of this disease.

M. RENNIE.

Agricultural Instructor,
Falmouth.

Cocoe rot is, as far as I know, all over the Island, and the 'Commander', which as far as I have ever known is the same as "Left Man," is the particularly susceptible variety. The variety you mention as "Bamboo" I do not know, probably it is the same as the one called "Bourbon" at this end of Portland and in St. Mary. Of course, in some districts, the disease is much worse than in others, and it is worse in wet seasons than any others, but I fear that Cocoe Rot is like the Panana Disease of Bananas. Once it is in the land it is mighty hard to get rid of and if people would only listen to the Instructors, or rather to the Scientists before diseases and pests got bad, we might have a chance to control them.

I sent specimens of these rotten cocoes to Kew many years ago ıd warned people years and years ago of the danger of spreading the sease, and it is not true to say or infer that we are not prepared ı take any steps to prevent or counteract the disease in ground ›coes, but I hardly see that we can do more than we have been doing. anyone can suggest any practical steps I for one should be only too ad to help to carry them out.

W. CRADWICK.

This disease is well-known right through the Island, more in some stricts or parishes than others, especially when planted on heavy · clay soil. The disease, although well-known as Black Rot or Ground ck, is not very common in my districts.

The kinds to suffer badly are Leftman or Blue Cocoe, and the amboo or Fisher.

There is another one grown largely here called "Six Weeks," ıd I am informed by every one I have asked that this variety is ımune from the disease; the only draw back to this cocoe is that in et districts it keeps on growing fingers all the time instead of ripening f. Badoo is grown more than cocoes around here.

J. BRISCOE.

:o:

POTATOES.

RELAWNY AND EASTERN ST. JAMES IRISH POTATO COMPETITION.

The potatoes distributed after the hurricane last year brought ıch satisfactory results that I have been encouraged to start a competition, making it open to all members of Branch Societies in this strict.

I am sanguine that this competition ought to prove interesting, ıd be a stimulus to the permanent planting of this kind of potato hich is such a quick crop, and demonstrate that with proper cultivation, which every competitor, if he is in earnest is sure to give, it ın be grown to equal those from abroad if not better.

There is an idea that we have not suitable lands here, but ıccessful crops can be grown in the fall (this applies particularly to ower Trelawny).

Potatoes planted in November mature in February (12 weeks) hen the peasantry are making preparation for their spring planting. uring this period and the 3 succeeding months yams, etc., are generally arce, and the wives of settlers have then not much to take to market. the growing were permanently taken up, the crops would come in the nick of time. Another advantage is that the crop can be stored.

The prizes for this competition have been promised by a few the gentry of the parish.

The Rules governing the competition are as follows:—

1. The area to be cultivated must be ½ a square (33ft. by 66ft.) nd the prizes will be for the largest yields.

2. There will be a first, second, third, and eight other prizes. consolation prize will also be given for the best yield under unıvourable soil and other conditions.

3. The amounts will be for the first prize, £2 2/-; second, £1 1/-; ıird, 10/6 and 8 prizes of 5/- each. One consolation prize, 10/6.

4. Competitors must pay an entrance fee of 6d. to the Secretary of his Branch.

5. Members entering will be required to buy their own seed, but each Branch might manage to get the necessary quantity collectively for their members.

6. Planting must be done during the month of November.

I would advise intending competitors to place their orders with the Secretaries of Branches not later than the end of August, as there is likely to be a big demand for seed, owing to the lack of tonnage, arrangements have to be made early both for freight space as well as seed.

7. I will superintend the taking up and weighing of the crop during the month of February.

I will be glad to supply information to any intending competitor.

MARTIN RENNIE,

Agri. Instructor,
Trelawny & St. James.

———:o:———

HOW TO KEEP COCONUT BUTTER FIRM IN ANY CLIMATE.

One good enterprising man in a district is a great asset to the inhabitants, especially when that man is public spirited and endeavours to pass on the results of his experiences to his neigbours. Such a man is Mr. C. J. Whyte, the respected collector of Taxes at Darliston.

Mr. Whyte's modesty and the fact that the JOURNAL is not a volume of "Who's Who" prevents me saying any more about him.

It is to be hoped, however, that he will see his way to contribute a series of articles on his labour-saving devices and economic household contrivances which saves him many a shilling, or, perhaps to give a lecture on the subject at one of our meetings to be inserted in the JOURNAL.

He has constructed an iceless refrigerator which keeps coconut butter fom 6 to 10 degrees below the temperature of the ordinary shade. This device can be used to keep any article that depends on a low temperature for its well being. A series of shelves is made to fit into upright legs with the sides open.

As many shelves as are needed can be put. These shelves are most convenietly made about 18 inches square. The lower ends. of the legs are inserted in a tub, an ordinary zinc tub will do. On the topmost shelf a pudding pan is put. The sides which until now are open are covered with a piece of flannel or flannelette cloth cut and sewed to fit it, entirely draping the whole construction. The lower end of the cloth hangs down into the tub and the upper ends which are about nine inches taller than the structure falls over into the pudding pan. Water is now put into the two vessels and capillary attraction causes an upward and downward movement of water. This water evaporates very quickly, thus lowering the temperature to the desired point.

It will be found that the water passes down much quicker than it does upwards, so that the upper vessel will have to be refilled two or three times a day. Let all those people who complain about the poor keeping qualities of the coconut butter try this simple device and see the result. The refrigerator will be found excellent to keep meats and ordinary butter.

R. C. SOMERVILLE.

RICE GROWING.

Mr. R. C. Somerville, the Agricultural Instructor for Westmoreland, who has done a great deal to encourage the extension of rice growing, writes us the following letter:—

"I have made arrangements with a prominent rice grower who grows different varieties of rice separately to keep his beah (seed rice) for supplying through you to planters next year. Intending growers should procure seeds by February so as to sow in March to plant out in June and early July. Those who have deep water morass to plant in will require Rhaju and planters who have lands that are partially dry or are of high altitudes will do well to plant Dover and Sampat.

I intend to put in the seasonable notes column of the JOURNAL from February next year the work to be done month by month so that those who would like to plant for the first time may have some guidance.

:o:

SOME REMARKS ABOUT COCONUTS IN E. PORTLAND AND E. ST. THOMAS.

Bud Rot we have always with us, but Leaf Bitten disease is only recently showing itself as a serious pest in this section of Jamaica.

The few remarks I give here are necessitated by the fact that there is even among large proprietors and certainly among small holders still a good deal of confusion over these two diseases.

1. The most common form of Budrot in this section is that which directly atacks the heart of the coconut, and is generally first noticed when either the central leaf begins to appear shortened or yellow. This central leaf on being smartly pulled will then in most cases come away easily and the base of the leaf is found to be attacked by a soft and very offensively stinking rot. In other cases more advanced the whole central bunch of leaves or the heart as we call it turns over and drops out of the tree leaving the side limbs intact and the fruit sound in which state it may remain for a number of months with a large hollow receptacle at its apex full of a magnificient mass of bacterial rot in prime condition and fully exposed for the further spread by insects, John Crows, rats, etc., of the dread Bud Rot. It should be noted that in this case there is no change in the leaf of the coconut attacked, that is, I mean the leaflet on the limb is not deformed or bored or wrinkled but merely the whole leaf may become shorter and yellow. This is important as these changes do appear in Leaf Bitten. The other form of budrot is not so common by any means in this section and is different in that the attack begins at the base of the butt of the heavy limbs and works up and through the blossoms to the heart or embryonic life centre. In either case the death of the tree is a certainty, and it is suicidal and dangerous to the community for any attempt at treatment to be made by any planter. Immediately on recognition no matter if there are 500 nuts on the tree, the axe must be applied and the tree crown split and burnt to cinders. All this should be by this time well-known to all planters. It is, however, often neglected still.

2. *Leaf Bitten Disease*, however, is in many cases curable. This disease shows itself by appearing in many cases at the extreme tips of the leaves where a sort of scrofulous rotting away of the leaflet top is visible, often when seen of a black colour. It may, however, appear

in the centre of the leaf, and has the appearance of a bar of black or dark brown or even yellow discoloration running horizontally across the limb; in time the limb breaks in half at the point attacked and the end hangs down and eventually drops off leaving a stump of the limb with perhaps half its leaflets on it which however, have the appearance of having been bitten off regularly in a line by some boring or biting insect. In fact it was originally supposed to be the work of such creatures. To a trained eye the first appearance of the disease may often be detected on the latest straight up un-opened but projecting heart leaf, there being a drooping appearance at the tip and a slight discolouration. If this leaflet is cut out and opened up it gives a splendid opportunity of understanding how the disease works. The fungus which has been decided by Mr. Ashby to be the cause of the trouble is then seen at its work causing a bright yellow discolouration starting from the main centre rib and working straight across the folded leaves showing a distinct and marked band of colour. It will then be realized how this fungus developing further at that point gradually rots or sloughs off the limb and leaves a stump with regularly cut off leaflets at the point attacked. The further developments of the disease are the gradual working downward of the fungus from the stump to the heart and finally perhaps the setting up a rot similar to Bud Rot and the death of the tree. For an accurate description of the 3 kinds of Leaf Bitten Diseases, see July Journal, article by S. F. Ashby. The fact that cases have been known of trees curing themselves and outgrowing the disease, though liable to a recrudescence of it at perhaps a much later stage gives hope for treatment. Some years ago I tried a treatment of Jeyes Fluid and water on two trees attacked by this then supposed insect disease. In both cases the trees recovered. Latterly the treatment recommended has been the cutting out carefully of all attacked portions of the tree well below the point of visible disease and the putting in of Bluestone and Lime. I can to-day point to a tree treated 8 years or so ago by Mr. Cradwick with a spray of Bluestone and lime which recovered. Lately also I have been instrumental in getting trees treated with Jeyes Fluid which have made complete recoveries, whilst trees treated with the Bluestone method nearby have not. From these I am not prepared to argue that Jeyes treatment (half pint to 4 gallons of water, and 2 gallons to a large tree) is a cure. Certainly it appears scientifically incorrect, but on the other hand so is sulphate of Iron and yet there have been many certified cases of good from its use for poor and unthrifty trees, nuts dropping and so on.

The fact that trees do recover of themselves leaves it open to be a mere coincidence that the Jeyes trees I have treated have recovered. There is, however, room for further experiment. In one case a tree made a recovery and then after forming some perfect leaves went back. Would a second treatment of Jeyes and water have prevented this? I recommend, therefore, in regard to Leaf Bitten Disease that the tree first be washed with a good dose of 2 gallons of Jeyes and water and then the Bluestone and white lime (3 lime to one Blue Stone, ¼ lb. tobacco tinful—or even powdered bluestone alone, half a quarter lb. tobacco tinful) be packed on the top of the cut off heart, the tree well cleaned and the rubbish and diseased portions burnt. Except for the Jeyes suggestion, this is nothing new and is the treatment of the Department of Agriculture, practically except that salt

The chief trouble is the difficulty the settler has and to get or understand what arsenate of lead is, but there are still plenty of people who do not know it.

3. *Root Trouble.*—There is a disease which has so far been thought to be caused from some physical condition of the soil and which here in these parishes is only found on one sort of soil combination, i.e., heavy dark soil on top of yellow or brown clay of a very close texture and which is noticeable by the deep brown exudations which stain the trunk of the trees and for which no cure has been devised. Excision of the diseased tissues and tarring has been tried and has sometimes the effect of causing temporary check to the disease. Some cases however, have lately come under my observation in settler's fields of such trees having been treated by a severe burning of the base of the coconut even so far as to cause a complete stripping off of the bark of the tree for a distance up of 4 or 5 feet and the result has been apparently a cure. The evidence of course, is not as reliable as might be desired, yet judging by appearance and situation and description I should believe such trees were attacked by root disease and undoubtedly the cure is plain to be seen. This might be tried in some cases as an experiment by those who have a number of such trees badly attacked. It can do no harm as such trees are sure to die eventually.

4. *Die Back.*—This disease of the leaves causing the gradual thinning and weakening of the crown and loss of colour in the leaves and loss of size in the nuts is becoming common all over this section though perhaps a little less prevalent in the Morant Bay end of St Thomas. More should be done in cutting out worthless trees attacked and burning them and also cutting off and burning the leaves when found on freshly affected trees, cultivation and manuring or help of any sort to increase vitality. Do planters know how a coconut tree responds to regular mulching?

5. *Sanitation.*—I read the other day that in treatment of wounds in the Army to-day, the French have a system of flushing out by the insertion of rubber tubes into the wound to its utmost depth and so injecting antiseptics, which has resulted in it being possible to say to a day when such a wound will be perfectly healed and infection by germs has been reduced to almost no per cent. From this I have wondered if such a system of flushing out at regular intervals the filthy depths of the hearts of our coconut trees with a solution of Jeyes or some antiseptic would not have a marvellous effect in keeping the trees free of disease. We know that the Bud Rot is carried by insects largely, we also know that many of the fungus tribe attack through wounds mostly caused by snails, slugs, borers, beetles, etc. Would not a regular antisepticizing of the trees, say once in 6 months with 2 gallons of water and 2½ ozs. of Jeyes at a cost of 1d. for material go a long way to keeping the trees sanitary and healthy. Possibly a more frequent treatment might be needed but even if 6d. per tree was spent each year what would this amount to as compared with an annual loss of crop average and dead trees.

I hope these few remarks on the coconut position in this section may be helpful to those in and out of the district who have not been giving the matter the attention it deserves as a wholesale spread of disease in our coconuts would be and is becoming a very serious menace

(Sgd.) L. A. WATES,

STRIPED WEEVIL BORER OF CANES.

Two mistakes occur in my letter on the "Striped Weevil Borer" in the June number of your JOURNAL. The book I referred to, which gives the life cycle of this Striped Weevil is "*Insect Pests of the Lesser Antilles*," by H. A. Ballou, M.Sc., Entomologist on the Staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, issued by Sir Francis Watts, Commissioner for Agriculture for the West Indies. The other mistake is in my quoting the April number of the *International Sugar Journal* in reference to experiments in Queensland to destroy these Weevils and their grubs. The issue of that Journal should be *March, 1917*, not *April*. Will you kindly correct these errors for me in your next JOURNAL?

DERMOT O. KELLY-LAWSON.

:o:

THE USE OF TOOLS.

Some months ago a cultivator called at the office. He said he had a hard bit of ground which he wanted ploughed and he employed a man to do the job with a yoke of oxen and a 4″ plough.

After a few days trial the ploughman's decision was that the ground was too tough, and that nothing could be done until after rain had fallen. There was no rain for five months and then a shower fell. The ploughman was sent for and he had another try with the same result as before.

Our cultivator then began to take up the patch using a hoe. It was slow work, but doing a little at a time and just breaking the surface he was going ahead very well. When he told us of this, we suggested, why not use an Assam Fork. On hard ground it makes an impression more easily than a hoe and if the soil is not being broken deep, it is quicker and easier than the banana fork.

He has recently returned to sing the praises of the Assam Fork. With much less effort he was able to break the surface and by the time the next shower fell half the plot was ready for planting.

The three-prong Assam Fork is sold for 5/- and the four-prong for 5/6.

Another tool that is very serviceable and is not much known is the Dutch hoe, or scuffle hoe, or push hoe. It may be used for light weeding and breaking the crust that forms after rain. The tool in common use for this purpose is the cutlass, but not only is it slower than the hoe but the position in which it has to be used is more distressing to the operator. There is nothing so handy as a dutch hoe for straightening an edge, for cleaning a patch, or opening a small trench between plants. The cost of this hoe is 1/6 without a handle. For use in your vegetable garden you will find it indispensable.

The garden rake makes a useful watering can by conserving moisture. After a good soaking, either by rain or artificially, followed by a day's sun and wind, a crust forms on the surface of the land which if not broken encourages capillarity, or the upward motion of water in the soil, which reaching the surface, is evaporated by the sun and wind. The loosening of this crust forms a mulch of soil and checks the upward flow of the soil water in the same way that a mulch of grass or litter of any kind would act. We used to water a vegetable garden by soaking down with a watering can thoroughly on Friday evening. By "thoroughly" we mean thoroughly—the common

practice is to barely wet the surface, though such watering is not only a waste of time but is positively harmful to plants especially if applied at the end of a hot day. Next evening we raked the surface with a 2" rake doing this operation also thoroughly. It was remarkable how the plants pulled along. This practice is a valuable consideration where water is scarce or distant; and furthermore in event of the garden boy being unruly, he may be dispensed with while you water with the rake or even the scuffle hoe once or twice a week. Try it for yourself.

———:o:———

RED BEANS.

Mr. A. P. Hanson, Agricultural Instructor, was in the district on Saturday, 14th inst. He advises me to send in to you direct the result of my School Garden Competition for growing red kidney beans.

On a small plot of 16ft. by 6ft., the yield has been 4½ quarts. On an adjoining plot of the same area, the yield is 3¾ quarts. Hoping to hear from you.

Yours truly,

N. A. GRAY.

Teacher, Mavis Bank,
16th July, 1917.

———:o:———

THE SWEET POTATO AND ITS CULTIVATION.

(Being a Lecture delivered by Mr. H. E. Wright, Fairfield, to the Local Agricultural Society there.)

Of late years the sweet potato has become one of the most generally cultivated of the food plants of Jamaica, and indeed of the West India Islands.

It is not known by botanists where this plant was first discovered, but it is thought to be a native of both the Old and New World.

In Nicholls Tropical Agriculture we are told that it formerly grew in the woods of the Malayan Archipelago, and the name *batatas* is the one by which it is known in the far East. It is mentioned in history as far back as the year 1510 by an author named Pigafella, who visited Brazil and found the potato as an article of food among the Indians. After that it was introduced into Spain and other European countries, and in England it was at first sold as a great delicacy. As an article of food the sweet potato is said to contain more nutritious material than the common or "Irish" potato, but perhaps on account of the amount of sugar it contains it is not as popular with the natives of temperate climes as the common potato. In this country potatoes are of all sizes, varying from a few ounces in weight to as much as twelve or fifteen pounds weight; but it is stated that in the island of Java, they have attained the enormous weight of fifty pounds a piece.

In speaking of suitable soil for sweet potatoes, it is generally conceded that the best soil is a light friable one, as free as possible from roots of trees and stones. The plant also does best in a warm climate, although it will thrive in the mountains of the tropics up to high elevations.

There are a great many varieties of sweet potatoes no doubt as a result of cross fertilization, and these various kinds are known, many of them, by different names in different districts. In my early

boyhood days the chief potato that I knew was one called Prince, so named because it was introduced into the parish by a Minister of that name. Then later on the most renowned was one called "Joseph" a potato with large leaves and stems.

At the present time we have Sarey, Lewis Daly, Tom Tom, Costa Rica, Yellow Coby, Black-slip, Prison-farm, Pigtail, Mingo, etc. Of all these the Sarey potato ranks first in point of popularity. It has become popular because of the fact that it thrives almost anywhere, and it matures quicker than any other, and is very easily cooked. Its disadvantages are that after one season unless great care is exercised it soon dies off; and the owner of a field of Sarey unless he is quick in getting plants while the field is in full vigour, will soon find himself without plants. Next in popularity to Sarey comes Lewis Daly, which in my opinion is a cross between the Joseph and some varieties of a harder nature. This is another variety that will thrive on any kind of land—rich or poor, sometimes the richer, the better, provided the ground is well dug up. The plants are not easily killed by drought, and while the tubers of the Sarey cannot keep long in the ground when they are ripe, those of the Lewis Daly can remain much longer, getting more delicious as they become more mature.

The variety known as Tom-Tom in this locality is losing its popularity, perhaps because it cannot move along as quickly as those I have already named, but it is a better eating potato than any of the others already mentioned; and when roasted or baked in the stove is very appetising; but, as already stated you must give it from seven to eight months.

The next variety to which I now wish to draw your attention is the one called Yellow Coby, a specimen patch of which can now be seen growing in the school garden here. This is a variety that requires rich soil, but not exactly the soil of "new" lands; what it wants is a portion of the garden which has been well forked, and to which a liberal supply of farm-yard manure has been added. Mr. J. H. Lewison of Knockpatrick, in this parish, is my authority for saying that at present it is the kind which lends itself best to good tillage and heavy manuring; but if you are in a hurry to get potatoes don't plant Yellow Coby.

Leaving varieties, let us briefly consider how to prevent the good kinds which we have from "running down." At present we go to an old field when we want plants for a new field, and then next season we take plants from the last field, repeating the process until we begin to discover that this or that variety is not doing as well as it used to do, and then we rush off to the next district for the latest good bearer.

Now the above system is not the correct one to follow. Those who have studied the matter carefully tell us that a better way would be to select some good sized tubers, and in the spring time plant them at a place where they will be sure to grow and produce a good quantity of "slips." Then when the planting season comes in the fall of the year, we will be able to cut from the above planting, slips that are vigorous; and we will find that we will have strengthened our plants with better chances of a good crop when the time of reaping comes.

Perhaps one of these days, the Department of Agriculture, or better still some private individual will succeed by cross fertilization to evolve new and more prolific varieties than those which are being grown at present.

There is another important principle which must not be overlooked if we wish to keep up the various kinds which we have voted to be good ones, and that is we must be careful in planting not to mix the different kinds; but to plant each kind in its own separate patch. There is no great difficulty connected with doing this, because in setting about gathering plants for a new field all you have to do is to make separate bundles according to the number of varieties you intend to plant, and plant each bundle in its own proper place. This will prevent the plants of stronger growth from killing out or weakening those of a more delicate nature; and it will also prevent us from interfering with those that take a longer time, when we go to dig in the quicker ones.

Respecting how sweet potatoes should be planted, I ought perhaps to say very little, seeing that nearly all the gentlemen present are growers of sweet potatoes, and from their experience must know the best way to plant; and it seems to me that a good deal of the success of planting most of these articles depends upon the kind of soil with which the plant has to contend. I have seen people just wrap up an indifferent bundle of slips and fling it into an indifferently dug hole, and hurriedly cover up the whole bundle, getting fair and good results when the reaping time came; yet if the majority of us were to try such a method we could not hope for a good crop.

Sweet potatoes can be planted to advantage either in hills, holes or ridges. The last way is not practised except when planting is done on a small scale. The advantage of planting in hills is that the crop is very easily gathered in; but on the other hand the praedial thief finds it quite easy, even in the dark, to plunder and take away his neighbour's potatoes. Planting in holes that are properly dug, allows the field to be more quickly covered over with the slips, and thus to check the growth of weeds, the getting out of which is one of the greatest items of labour in cultivating a field of sweet potatoes. If larger areas of potatoes are to be planted out, and if the ground will allow it, the use of the plough will very much lessen the work and reduce the cost of planting.

As regards time the best period in most localities is between September and January, but there should always be some amount of planting in the spring time, so as to insure a good supply of plants for the fall of the year.

These are but a few brief hints by way of opening up the subject for the discussion which I am sure you are prepared now to begin; if anything which I have mentioned will help in any way towards the improvement of sweet potato cultivation, especially during this period of the war, then I shall conclude that my short paper has not been written in vain.

———:o:———

PEA WEEVILS IN THE FIELDS AND IN STORAGE.

The following report from the Government Entomologist has been sent in by the Director of Agriculture:—

In the first lot of specimens submitted (Rept. 24/4/17) the pods showed tiny corky-like growths or excretions upon their exterior and the contained peas were infested hy white weevil grubs. It was pointed out that the excretions were the points where eggs had been laid and weevil grubs had entered the pods. These latter came from Albion Mountain and the growers were of the opinion that this

fate had befallen the crop because it was planted in the moonligh From what I have been able to see lately in my rural visitations, this be true, most peas have been planted in the moonlight as all a more or less attacked!

A later sample was of cowpeas, redpeas and blackeye peas; a badly blemished or mined out by weevils. Unfortunately the weevi had all escaped from these. A recent visit to the Prison Farm : Spanish Town was of value as shedding light upon the problem. Fro an infested pile of blackeye peas in a store-room the adults we issuing in great numbers. When thrown out to air and further co dition, it was quite evident that the weevils made off to the peas the fields to continue their depredations.

The Insect.—The weevil (Bruchus Sp.) concerned is about or fifth of an inch in length; brownish-black in general color with dark markings and an overlying greyish pubescence or down. It is not o of the common temperate climate weevils infecting peas of which have descriptions available and accordingly material has been se to a specialist for determination. Bruchus tetricus was previous described as giving trouble in Jamaica but no description of this for is here available.

Injury.—The behaviour of the pea-infesting Bruchids is ve much similar. The adult lays its egg upon the pod and from then the young grub issues and penetrates the pod to commence wc upon the contained peas. The peas are badly eaten out as a n by the grubs and pupation takes place in the pea itself. A samp of peas scarred by weevil will grade low and of course in an infest field there is a considerable loss in actual tonnage—some of the pe failing to develop in the pod and others practically being left as shell, the result of the feeding of the grub. The peas will most lik be in storage when the insect matures. Thereafter it will re-atta the peas in storage or make out and off if that is possible to the fields.

Control.—(a) Peas should be planted under such natural con tions that quick maturation is assured and the time possible for wee depredations in the field so made as short as possible. The peri referred to is between falling of petals and the maturing of po Weather conditions will of course enter into this and hasten or prolo the ripening season. Plan the ripening season then to come w what is normally a dryish spell.

(b) Once the crop is made, waste no time in getting it gather and cured and have the contained weevils disposed of quickly. T longer you delay, your peas are becoming lighter and weevils : infesting what is not yet infested.

(c) It will be found that if immediate and thorough curing a strongly sun-baked barbecue or a corrugated iron sheet is possible the peas being thinly spread out—many if not all of the eggs and t contained pupae and larvae (grubs) of the weevil will succumb. T immature stages cannot stand long exposures to high temperatur Driers used for grain in U.S.A. act on this principle: the passing hot air through the grain or the subjecting of the grain to high te peratures. The grain is dried and in the same process insects are c posed of. The heat method of treating flour mills and grain elevat is nowadays superceding the former fumigation process. It is sim and it is safe. Fumigation in this case may be found unnecessa

If a second or third sunning is necessary, note that the peas meanwhile are not exposed to reinfestation but kept in a tight bin or sack.

(d) When weather fails, fumigation may be the best remedy for weevil and its ravages. Some may prefer to apply it so soon as the peas are harvested.

The drier the peas and the warmer the day, the better the results will be. Carbon bisulfide is the cheapest material one can use. A teaspoonful for twenty-four hours will suffice for a kerosene tin of peas. Cover over the tin with a heavy felt or blanket during the process and place the liquid in a small tin dish. Do not pour the liquid on the peas. Shortly, proceed as follows:—

(1) Place peas in tin.

(2) Get blanket ready to cover up with.

(3) Pour out a teaspoonful of the bisulfide in a tin dish, taking careful note that there is not a light about or a person smoking.

(4) Place the dish immediately on the top of the peas and cover.

(5) The liquid will become a gas and being heavier than air will descend through the peas and so kill the weevil and its various stages.

(6) Keep the cover on tightly for twenty-four hours.

(7) Remove peas from tin and air for a few minutes, then permanently store in a tight bin or sack (good duck-cloth is perfectly safe).

If you expose the peas now unduly or put them away in an open mesh sack or any open box or a barrel with gaping staves, the weevil will soon reinfest your grain and the work of fumigation will have been all undone. Careful storage after one fumigation and the weevil trouble is over for that crop. Careless storage means big losses in the granary and more weevils for next crop in the field.

The placing of Carbon bisulfide about the island to be retailed in small quanities to cultivators at a reasonable or controlled price, is a point worthy of consideration.

(e) A method for prevention of attack in the field has so far not been devised and pea growers rely upon control at harvest time in the manner stated.

ARCHIBALD H. RITCHIE,
Government Entomologist,

27/6/17.

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S COMPETITION.

At the end of last year we announced that in order to encourage children to take an interest in the raising of food crops, we would offer prizes for a School Children's Competition in the growing of Red Kidney Beans, commonly called "Red Peas" and supply seed. Unfortunately, the weather was so wet in some districts, that no planting could be done, while in other districts the weather was fairly seasonable; and as a large number of schools engaged in the competition, we divided the competition into a Winter and Summer Competition. We announced the winners of the first competition in the May JOURNAL. p 189. We have now judged the second competition.

As the samples were very good, and two different kinds of "Red Peas" were sent in, viz., Round Reds, and the common "Red Pea," usually called Miss Kelly, or Cockscomb, and the Round Reds always show up better in a competition, we made two classes. The Competition was so close that many schools were nearly equal, and so we

make the prizes equal—2/6 a piece. The prize money for both com petitions was contributed by the following:—The Governor, £1 Mr. Craig (who is Chairman of the Instructors' Committee) 5/- E. B. Hopkins (who originally suggested the competition) 5/-; an the Secretary, 5/-.

We now give the winners of the Summer Competition as follows:—

ROUND REDS.

School.	Teacher.	Competitor.	Amt. of Prize.
1. Retrieve	J. A. Webster	Milton Excell	2/6
2. Spaldings	E. M. Ebanks	Daisy Steele	2/6
3. Patrick Town	A. G. Benjamin	Hagar Chamberlain	2/6

MISS KELLY.

1. Staceyville	D. Pusey	M. Brown	2/6
2. Epworth	Stanley McAdam	Aaron DaCosta	2/6
3. Mt. Edmondson	J. T. Morrison	Albert Maghie	2/6

The competition was first for the schools and then for the bes competitor in the school.

———:o:———

OVERLOOK BEANS.

At various times we have had notes in this JOURNAL abou Overlook beans severally called Cut Eye beans, Horse Bean or Swor bean, which have been largely grown here of late years amon bananas as a green dressing, but they have not been used for foo either for man or beast although they can be grown very cheaply Various notes referred to the fact that they are in quite commo use in some parts of the world as human food. In experiments, which have been carried out here (since when we have found that th various people who have been trying them are still alive) Overloo Beans have been proved good food, both green and dry.

The following letter was sent to one of our Instructors:—

Many people seem to have the idea that the Overlook Bean i unfit for food. I have grown it very successfully, and the youn green pods prepared for the table exactly the same as the slice bear is equal to it in all but colour.

The dried seed I ground and cooked, the same as corn meal fo the dogs. They did not seem to have any great craving for it, bu they did not refuse it—and they are very much alive to-day. I woul like *someone else* to try it on fowls!

W. G. ADAMS.

Mandeville.

FEEDING THE WORLD.

At the July meeting of the Board of Management, the Secretary read an extract from an article on the above subject, in THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, U.S.A., dealing with the fixing of maximum and minimum prices of products in the United States:—

"In case of extreme emergency the Government should have the power to purchase, store and subsequently dispose of food products to groups of people or communities organized in some form, and to fix maximum and minimum prices.

The mere existence of such power would most likely make action unnecessary.

There is a pretty general misapprehension of the meaning of minimum and maximum prices. Many farmers are alarmed at both terms. They construe minimum as the least possible price purchasers of food would be allowed to pay for farm products, and they construe maximum as having an almost identical application in that it would mean the extreme limit consumers would have to pay.

Let me make this clear: The fixing of a minimum price would mean the establishment, by either Federal Government, state government or community guaranty, of a sure-profit price for the producer. That is really the sole purpose of establishing a minimum price—to secure the producer against loss. If it is going to cost him one dollar a bushel to raise wheat, a minimum guaranty of one dollar and a half would assure him a positive profit. While he was making his crop he would not need to worry an instant over the course of speculation in grain on the exchanges.

Minimum price fixing means, then, price fixing or price guarenteeing at the bottom—at the source of production. It is an emergency weapon to protect and encourage the producer.

When we come to maximum price fixing we find a weapon that is intended to operate at the top to protect the consumer against gouging and hoarding. Maximum prices could affect only the farmer who hoarded and secreted his farm products in the hope of excessive profits.

Both are extremely delicate instruments, and should be employed only with the greatest care and caution. Germany made an almost disastrous experiment with maximum price fixing when she began to tackle her food crisis. She began at the wrong end to encourage production. She fixed a maximum price for eggs and made it a crime to corner even a small supply; whereupon the egg supply of the empire—save the storage supply, which was a very small percentage of the whole—melted from sight. Inspectors were sent out to scout the farms. After a little while the inspectors began to report, and the lord high or high lord food dictator learned that he would have to employ almost as many egg inspectors as there were hens in Germany in order to determine accurately the egg supply from day to day.

Maximum prices also worked havoc in another direction. When an attractive maximum price was made in a district that had an abundance of the product on which the price was made, an overwhelming flood poured into the market. In the case of perishable products, storage facilities were swamped. The result was a surplus in some districts and a famine in others, and in districts where there was a surplus the farmers got frightened over the prospect of overproduction and slowed away down in their efforts to produce,

When Great Britain came later to take up the subject of government food control she profited by the mistakes of Germany and proclaimed minimum price guaranties to the farmer to stimulate production. But she confined her "sure-profit" price guaranties to storable staple products, such as grains.

OUR PRODUCTS.

Sugar Production.—It seems that the position of the world's production of sugar is not yet well understood here, by those not actually engaged in the larger operations of producing sugar. We all know that the price of sugar is now high both locally and abroad. When the war broke out, commercial sugar became high in price at once, but the rough sugar produced by small settlers only used locally, remained low—so low, that the price in the local markets hardly covered the cost of manufacture let alone the growing. Appeals were made to this Society to seek the cause of this, and the cure. Small settlers asked—Why should the price of estate sugar be so high and the price of our "tin" sugar be so low? Enquiries made showed that while there was an increasing production of "new" sugar by small settlers, there was a smaller consumption every year, as so many had become accustomed to buying shop sugar, so that there was often the curious position of small settlers taking their "new" sugar 20 miles to market, to sell on a Saturday, and themselves going to the local shops to buy brown or white albion sugar made on estates,, brought to Kingston, and then shipped from Kingston to the country again. Various recommendations were made, the first of which was, that the larger producers of small settlers sugar who had some storage room should cure their sugar and sell to the local shops. Curiously, the first people to catch on to this recommendation, were Chinese shopkeepers who bought "new" sugar, cured it in barrels, sold the molasses and kept the dry sugar for sale in their shops, making almost 100 per cent on the operation. It took enterprize like this to show the small settlers what could be done. Then again, through our organization, large estates which were open to buy wet sugar or syrup, were put into touch systematically with small settlers, and mutual prices were arranged. The small settlers were also taught how to prepare their syrup or sugar so that it would be suitable for making export sugar. Slowly but surely, an equilibrium was established. Small settlers are now receiving high prices for their sugar and there is not so much estate sugar sold locally; it is thus let free for export to the United Kingdom where it is so much needed.

In case it might be necessary to further relieve the local markets, we shipped a consignment of "head" sugar from Clarendon to England as an experiment, where it sold satisfactorily; but this will not now be needed. It is better for this sugar to be used locally and let more estate sugar free for export.

Before the war, Germany and Austria between them produced more sugar than the whole of the British Empire. At that time the total amount of sugar used annually in the United Kingdom was 1,800,000 tons, of which 1,500,000 tons was beet sugar from Continental Europe principally Germany and Austria; and of cane sugar only 300,000 tons, of which only a small amount came from the British Empire. Immediately after the war broke out, when of course there

was no German sugar available again, the Imperial Government was faced with a great shortage in sugar supplies. They acted promptly, however, and purchased 900,000 tons of sugar at £20 per ton, a total cost of £18,000,000, the biggest sugar deal ever made in the world. They bought nearly all the Cuban crop that was available and also a large proportion of the crop of Java.

It is all very well to enjoy high prices now, but after the war, even though restrictions are placed on the importations of beet sugar from the presently hostile nations, there is meantime taking place a very great extension in the growing of sugar cane, while beet sugar from friendly nations such as France and Russia, will probably be admitted on equal terms. But no one knows yet. Cane sugar, however, can always more than hold its own provided that good farming methods are used in the growing of the cane, and the most up-to-date machinery that can be got, is used in the manufacture of the sugar; while above all, there requires to be keen supervision *to see that the best is being got out of the labour, the land, and the cane.*

COPRA.—Jamaica has not hitherto done very much in copra, which is the trade name for the dried flesh of the coconut. Jamaica being so near her markets has always been able to export coconuts. Recently, however, the manufacture of copra has been taken up. In the years of drought so many small coconuts resulted on some estates, that they were not saleable for export, and so were made into copra. At present owing to the scarcity of freight space, more copra is being made, as one ton of copra can be made from 6,000 nuts, which weigh about 4 tons thus reducing the space necessary to carry the product.

Sun drying cannot be relied upon to dry the flesh of the coconut, so dryers or kilns are useful. Any cocoa dryer can dry copra.

Before the war, the two great centres for oil crushing were Hamburg, the chief port of Germany, and Marseilles in France. These were the two greatest oil crushing centres of the world. Germany imported 230,000 tons of copra per year, of which 124,000 tons came from various parts of the British Empire. But although Germany imported such a large amount of copra from British sources, she exported coconut oil to the extent of 41,000 tons per annum, no less than 30,000 tons going to the United Kingdom. After the war broke out, necessity made the United Kingdom do her own oil crushing, and copra was imported direct. What may happen after the war, of course nobody knows, but it will certainly be difficult for Hamburg to re-establish itself as the largest emporium for exports of copra.

COCOA.—Before the war, the German Empire only produced about 5,500 tons of cocoa per annum and she consumed 55,000 tons. France and her Colonies produced 2,000 tons and consumed 30,000 tons. The United States produced 3,000 tons and consumed 67,000 tons. Holland produced 3,000 tons and consumed 25,000 tons. While Switzerland, famous for her manufacture of Swiss chocolate consumed 10,000 tons and produced none. Austria-Hungary consumed 5,000 tons and produced none. Russia consumed 5 000 tons and produced none. The British Empire alone amongst the nations produced cocoa far beyond her own requirements. Now as Germany Austria, Russia and probably Switzerland, cannot get any cocoa now

while the production remains practically the same, it is evident that a large quantity must have been diverted into four countries—Great Britain, France, the United States and Holland. It came out that Holland had been importing a great deal more than ever she had done before, and the inference was that she was selling it to Germany, which was no doubt the case. This probably accounted for the trade going on so well, long after the war broke out. Now, however, the Holland to Germany supply has been pretty well stopped there is a superabundance of cocoa awaiting markets. Jamaica is only permitted to export to the United Kingdom half of the previous year's exports.

Through the efforts of the West India Committee, and at the request of the Trinidad merchants, facilities have been obtained for the shipment of upwards of 6,000 tons of cocoa to France. It is stated that if this cocoa had been forced to be sent to America, the prices would have been still further depressed. As time goes on, the existing supplies of cocoa, coffee, etc., in the United Kingdom must become depleted and some relaxation of the embargo may be made.

COFFEE.—Before the war Germany and Austria were very large importers of coffee, some of which came from Jamaica. This trade is entirely cut off now, and while the interference of war ships in the South Atlantic, and latterly the shortage of shipping interfered with the large production of Brazil—which is the greatest factor in the coffee industry—getting into the Northern markets, still it is evident that when two large markets are cut off there must be a surplus of profit, either going into the remaining open markets or being held up at the point of production. The United Kingdom, it is supposed, has more coffee in stock than she needs, so meanwhile has placed an embargo on imports of coffee so that only necessary products may be carried on the ships. This embargo affects Jamaica very much, but still shipping can go on to the United States. Naturally, however, that market may then probably become overstocked also.

The war has interfered with trade all round, and although some industries benefit temporarily, still nearly everyone in some way or the other must be adversely affected by war conditions in the end. What each individual can do to remedy this, is by every means in his power—no matter in what humble capacity—*help to win the war.*

:o:

GENERAL MEETING.

There was again a very good attendance at the Half Yearly General Meeting held at the Collegiate Hall, Kingston, on Thursday, 26th July, at 11.40, there being present 82 delegates from Branch Societies, 17 direct members, 9 members of the Board of Management, 6 visitors and 11 Agricultural Instructors. It has to be remembered, however, that there is usually a strain on the members of the Board in the week of the General Meeting, as seven are members of the Instructors Committee and attend that meeting the day before, and the meeting of the Board of Management is held on the same day. Some are also members of the Legislative Council which met the week before. All these public duties take our members away a great deal from their own business. Our two Vice-Presidents and the

Hon. D. Campbell were engaged on the Gordon Commission, and so could not attend the General Meeting. In addition, the triennial election of the Board of Management took place at this General Meeting, and some members of the old Board do not care to attend them.

We have often tried to explain how the Board is constituted, but there is still some misunderstanding among our Branch Societies. It is the aim if possible to have all Jamaica represented, and all the chief industries, but this is not practicable with an elected Board. Fortunately, the West End—which being far away from Kingston, is not usually well represented by members or delegates—was well represented this year, and so secured representation of two members on the Board—Mr. E. E. Melville of Great Valley (Hanover) and Mr. R. F. Williams of Kew Park (Westmoreland), both of whom were nominated by several Branches, and both of them are Presidents of Branch Societies and have taken great interest in our work. During the three years between elections, if any vacancies occur on the Board, these are filled by election of the Board of Management, and it is the aim of the Board to remedy any deficiencies in the triennial election by electing members for districts and industries not already represented. if members can be secured. It has always, however, been difficult to get members of the Board from the West End, as it means 3 or 4 days to attend meetings of the Board and Committees. We must remember that nearly every month there are meetings of ordinary Committees and Special Committees in addition to the meeting of the Board. Although the two new members from the West End are principally stock breeders, they are also genuinely interested in their parishes and in the industries pertaining thereto.

It will be interesting to recall the length of service some members of the Board have given to the work of the Agricultural Society.

The Society was inaugurated on the 7th of May, 1895, and the first General Meeting at which the first Board of Management was formed, was held on the 29th May, 1895, with the then Governor, Sir Henry Blake, as President. There were then four Vice-Presidents, one of them being Sir John Pringle, who is the only member of the Board who has been continuous in being a member—and a Vice-President—since. At that time the Board was partly nominated by the Governor and partly elected by members of the Society, and all the elected members of the Council were members of the Board. This was probably good at the beginning to arouse and spread interest in the work of the Society, but later on the large Board was found to be detrimental to continuity in the working policy of the Society. This will be obvious when it is considered that perhaps there would only be 4 or 5 regular attendants at meetings, and then for any special question a large number of others who had hardly attended at all might come up and defeat at one meeting by their votes, a well considered policy, that had been adopted and was being carried through for a year before. So when Branch Societies had become interested and there was a goodly number of them, it was resolved only to have an elected Board. There is, however, something to be said in favour of a partly nominated and a partly elected Board, as the nominations can always secure representation of districts and industries not secured by election.

The other members of the present Board who were elected at the first meeting on the 29th of May, 1895, in addition to Sir John Pringle,

were Messrs. R. Craig, Adam Roxburgh and D. Campbell, while the Hon. P. C. Cork, now one of the Vice-Presidents, was a nominated member, but none of these members has done *continuous* service on the Board. Messrs. Craig, Campbell and Roxburgh all retired from the Board in 1901 on the formation of the Board of Agriculture, which we suspect, they believed to be the end of the Agricultural Society, but of course it has not been so. The Board of Agriculture was only a stepping stone to the formation of the Government Department of Agriculture which later on took place, and which is necessary to govern scientific work in agriculture. Mr. Craig and Mr. Campbell were re-elected to the Board in 1904, and Mr. Roxburgh in 1914. Mr. Cork was away from the Island on official service as Colonial Secretary of British Honduras from January 1901 to 1905, two years and three months as Colonial Secretary, and one year and six months as Acting Governor. He was in St. Lucia from October 1905 to April 1909, first as Administrator of St. Lucia and for some months, latterly, as Acting Governor of the Windward Islands. He then came to Jamaica as Colonial Secretary from which post he retired in 1913. He was re-elected on the Board in 1914 and was also elected a Vice-President.

The present Secretary came to the Society as Assistant Secretary in April, 1898, principally to edit the JOURNAL, and has continued his services since. With the exception of two spells of leave—in 1905, when he attended the Crystal Palace Exhibition as representative of Jamaica, and 3 months in 1910, he has had no holidays otherwise.

It will be also interesting to recall that one of the first questions taken up by the Society in 1895 was the formation of local Agricultural Societies. The Minute concerning this reads as follows:—

"The Board of Management advocated that every endeavour should be made by the Officers of the Society and otherwise, to secure the establishment of such local or Branch Societies, and decided that they should be incorporated as a recognised Branch by resolution of the Board upon the Secretary reporting that such local Society had been organized according to rule and had 30 registered members."

The first Society affiliated was the Western St. Ann, now defunct. The Christiana Society in the parish of Manchester followed, then the Trinity Ville in St. Thomas and Darliston in Westmoreland. These are all Branches still.

Other subjects considered at the beginning were Fruit Trade Marks, Premiums for the Cultivation of Staple Products, Central Coffee Factories, the Extension of Vegetable Growing, Produce Buyers Law, Improvement of the Small Stock of the Island, Improvement of the Cattle and Horsekind of the Island, Investigation into Cattle Diseases, especially the Tick Question, Extension and Improvement of Bee Keeping, Popularizing of Agricultural Shows, and last but not least, the establishment of the Agricultural JOURNAL.

It is certainly interesting to recall also that the Grant to the Society in 1896 was £4,000, that it has been as low as £1,000, that it went up to £5,000, and is now £4,500.

The Hon. J. R. Williams, then Inspector of Schools and a penkeeper in Westmoreland, but later on appointed Director of Education, was elected a member of the Board in 1904, and was continuous in service until his death in 1916. It is gratifying to know that his son has now been elected a member of the Board.

The following is the result of the voting at the last election of the oard:—

	A. C. L. Martin	102	9.	A. W. Farquharson	95
	Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G.	100	10.	Rev. W. T. Graham	92
	Hon. S. S. Stedman	100	11.	Adam Roxburgh	92
	Hon. D. Campbell	98	12.	E. W. Muirhead	90
	A. W. Douet	97	13.	H. Q. Levy	88
	Hon. R. P. Simmonds	97	14.	E. E. Melville	84
	Hon. P. C. Cork	97	15.	Jas. Dougall	79
	Robert Craig	95	16.	R. F. Williams	65

17\. Conrad Watson 61.

* * * * *

3.	Hon. H. W. Griffith	49	20.	Chas. Hope Levy	23
9.	A. D. Goffe	31	21.	J. Hirst	21

22\. G. R. Groves 15.

Mr. E. E. Melville and Mr. R. F. Williams are new members. therwise the members of the old Board have been re-elected.

The first 17 are members of the Board of Management.

WAR GIFTS FROM JAMAICA.

FORTY-EIGHTH SHIPMENT.

The following War Gifts have been contributed and shipped to the United ingdom per the Jamaica Agricultural Society, during the period ending 26th June, 917:—

Donor & Address.	Gift.	Destination.
Irs. D. Henderson, Kingston	6 bags Sugar (1,536 lbs. nett	Y. M. C. A. Soldiers Canteen, Blairgowrie, Scotland.
do	4 bags Sugar (1,081 lbs.)	Methodist Soldiers' Canteen, Blairgowrie, Scotland.
. Michael's Branch of the Mothers' Union, per Mrs. C. O. Magnan, Secty., 11 Musgrave Ave., Kingston	88 Articles of Children's Clothing	J. Navaux, Esq., Hon. Sec. Clothing of Belgian Destitute Civilians' Com'tee, 13 City Road, Finsbury Square End, London, Ec.
he Spanish Town Branch f the Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. F. E. Taylor, Spanish Town	66 Garments	do
Irs. Rhodes, Camp, & Mrs. Castle, Kingston	1 Case containing 46 Garments	Serbian Relief Committee.
. E. Owen, Inspector General's Office, Kingston	1 Case Cotton (30 lbs.)	Secretary, Blue Cross Fund 58 Victoria St., London, S.W.
he Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne,	82 Articles Clothing, 66 bandages, 39 cushions and pillows	Q.M.N.G., Friary Court, St. James Palace, London
'he Mandeville Ladies' Working Association, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne, Mandeville	1 Case containing 500 Hospital Bags	Lady Smith Dorrien, 5 Belgrave Place, London, S.W.
'he Upward and Onward Society, per Mrs. W. W. Wynne, Mandeville	42 Bags	do
he Ladies' Working Association, Kingston, per	3 Cases (1,095 Garments, pillows, etc.	Red Cross Society, Stores and Transport Depart-

Mrs. Branch, Half-way-Tree		ment, 83 Pall Mall, London, S.W.
do	1 Case Hospital Bags, 1 1,270	Lady Smith Dorrien Hospital Bag Fund, 5 Belgrave Place, London, S.W.
do	1 Case Clothing, centg. 292 Garments, etc.	Clothing of Belgian Destitute Civilians' outside the United Kingdom.
Officers 1st W.I. Regiment, Kingston, per Lieut. A. H. Vince, Up-Park Camp	3 Cases Cigarettes, 30 boxes White Seal of 600 each, equal 18,000	2nd West India Regiment, East Africa.
do	1 Case Cigarettes 1 box White Seal 600 1 box G. S. O. 250 Total 850	do
Miss Edith Clarke, from first sale Jamaica Gift Book, Sav-la-Mar.	10 bags Sugar, equal 1 ton	British Prisoners of War in Germany.
John Barclay, Jamaica Agricultural Society	1 barrel Mangoes 1 box Magazines	Fort Clarence.
Hon. P. C. Cork, Barbican, Liguanea	2 barrels Mangoes 1 box Mangoes	Fort Clarence.
	4 barrels Mangoes	Rocky Point Battery.
L. L. Keeling, March Pen, Spanish Town	1 parcel Magazines	Rocky Point Battery.

FORTY-NINTH SHIPMENT.

The following War Gifts have been contributed and shipped to the United Kingdom per the Jamaica Agricultural Society, during the period ending 27th July, 1917:—

Donor & Address.	Gift.	Destination.
Retreat & Ocho Rios Branches Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. J. Briscoe, Montpelier	82 Hospital Bags, 36 Garments	Q. M. N. G., London.
Chapelton Working Guild, per Mrs. Lopez, Chapelton	217 Garments, Hospital Bags, etc.	Red Cross Society, London.
Annotto Bay Red Cross Guild, per Miss O. G. Braham, Annoto Bay	175 Hospital Bags	Lady Smith Dorrien, 21 Eaton Place, London.
do	64 Garments, etc.	Hon. Work Secretary, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C.
do	52 Garments	J. Navaux, Esq., Belgian Destitute Civilians' Committee, 13 City Road, London, E.C.
St. Faith's Guild, Jamaica Patriotic Helpers, per Mrs. J. Briscoe, Montpelier	105 Garments, 9 Balaclava Caps 100 Hospital Bags	Q. M. N. G.
St. Thomas Ye Vale Red Cross Guild, per Mrs. McPhail, Bog Walk	300 Garments, etc.	V. A. D. Hospital, Wilts, 50 Finsbury.
The Mile Gully Voluntary Worker's Guild, per Miss G. M. Glanville, Mile Gully	452 Bandages	Mrs. Emmet, Kimnor, Florence Road, Boscombe, Hants.
Women's War Committee, St. James, per Mrs. D. Mills, Montego Bay	161 Garments	J. Navaux, Esq., Secretary Clothing Belgian Destitute Civilians' Com'tee.
The Vere Women's Sewing & Knitting Club, per Mrs.	310 Garments, Mufflers, etc.	Q.M.N.G., London.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

We have been experimenting with corn meal, grinding a quart of corn and weighing the results, so perhaps you would like to have this account for your JOURNAL.

Over and over again we are told to economise and help the Empire; and yet often, for want of a little thought and initiaive, we continue in the old rut and pay others the profits we might easily pocket ourselves.

Take native corn, for instance. The small settler sells his home-grown crop of corn, say at 4/- a bushel and proceeds to buy corn meal from the shop for his household needs, at 3d. per lb.

Now one quart of whole corn, gives 1¾ lbs. of meal, which at the present rate is worth 5¼d. Therefore one bushel of native corn yields 56 lbs. of meal worth 14/- or 10/- extra on the price of a bushel.

An Apache grist mill cost landed here (Montpelier) £1 7s. 6d. Hence the initial cost of the mill is speedily earned.

A few people in a district could combine to buy a mill, or perhaps a better plan would be, for one man to own the mill and charge a small sum for the use of it.

Peas could be ground in the same mill for use in soups, etc.

* * * * * *

Kerosine is another item that little economies help out. I have always bottled off a tin of kerosene as opened; needless to say, it goes much further when the bottles are under lock and key and can be given out as required; but since the price has risen, I have replaced a large round-burner lamp (which consumed a lot of oil) by a single bnrner lamp in the sitting room. While the round burner lamp in the dining room is put out *immediately* I leave the table and an ordinary small lamp is lit; result two tins of oil last three months instead of two as formerly or four tins saved a year.

* * * * * *

PRESERVES.—You may also like this wrinkle for covering jam, it will keep for a year or more in good condition. Fill the glass jar with jam and while the jam is still hot, have some fresh beef suet melted, and pour a thin layer of the melted suet over the hot jam and when cool, cover with paper or lids as usual.

A. E. BRISCOE.

* * * * * *

CORN.—All the corn grown from your seed corn that I have seen, and that is a great deal, is at least 25% better in quality and quantity than the corn which the people grew from locally grown unselected seed. When you have a good selected seed corn again for sale please let me know and send me a sample cob if possible.

W. CRADWICK.

———:o:———

STOCK NOTES.

MANGE ON HORSES.—It is stated that Cooper's Cattle Dip used in the same proportion as for ticks is a capital remedy for mange on horses, cows and pigs.

We should expect that it would be a good remedy as it contains coal tar disinfectant and arsenic.

* * * * * *

CATS.—Neglected cats which are not regularly fed and become meagre and mangy, are only nusiances and prowling thieves, thieving as much from their owners if they get a chance as from neighbours. It is best to get rid of such animals, and if one is not prepared to feed a cat decently, do not keep one. Feeding decently, does not mean pampering and stuffing with food at all times. When a cat becomes lazy it would not even catch a mouse which passed before its nose. Cats properly kept and well cared for, are great helps to the agriculturist as mouse and rat catchers, and if a cat does not perform this office, it should be got rid of. Cats kept about the house should be regularly dusted with sulphur or insect powder to keep them clear of fleas. Dusting once a week will do.

* * * * * *

DOGS.—If one lives in a town like Kingston and is what is called a light sleeper, there will be only one term for dogs and one fate for them. The term will be nuisance, and the fate will he instant death. There seem to be millions of dogs kept in Kingston, and its suburbs, and the majority of them are certainly not kept to kill rats, or for any useful purpose, such as burglar scarers, because if a dog keeps up barking, the whole of the night, the barking is a great help to burglars by covering the noise of their operations. It may be remarked that the writer does not come under the category of a light sleeper, but he feels for others.

In the country, however, the dog, if properly trained, is the most useful help to the agriculturist. The big dog is an anti-Praedial Larcenist—the small dog

catches rats and mongoose. The country dog is therefore worthy of his food, but owing to the scarcity of local corn and corn meal and the high price of all foods, a great many dogs have had a hard time of it lately, and there have been mauy complaints of hungry dogs prowling and thieving, probably far away from their homes. No one should keep a dog unless the animal is to be properly fed and cared for.

The life of some dogs is a misery from semi-starvation and the infestation of fleas. It is no great task to see that dogs are washed once a week, and the most useful wash to kill fleas is paranaph, and this can be made to last a long time. If dogs are regularly washed with paranaph they would not be affected with mange. For feeding—one good feed in the morning with a trifle during the day, is suitable for dogs.

———:o:———

POULTRY NOTES.

USE OF CORN.—When the new crop of corn comes in, the tendency is to feed plenty of corn and only corn. It is certainly the handiest food and the cheapest, but it is not satisfactory to use one kind of food in one form. In the first place corn should never be fed whole as the fowls can gobble it up too quickly. The corn should be cracked and then sifted to take the fine flour out, which otherwise would be wasted on the ground. Then the cracked corn should not be flung down thickly in the yard; indeed no food should be fed in the yard, as the earth there soon gets soiled and infected with droppings. The cracked corn should be taken away from the home a bit, and scattered far and wide among grass or underneath the trees and plants like coffee and bananas, which usually are growing near houses. The fowls will then spend happy and busy hours looking for the food and all will get time to pick up an equal share. When whole corn is fed thick on the ground, the greediest and most "forward" fowls get more than their due share, and the timid ones are half starved.

But fowls get tired of eating corn and nothing but corn in the same form, yet even with corn alone, the form it is fed in can be so varied that it is almost as good as a different kind of food. First, whole corn can be boiled; put on the fire in a pan or pot in the evening after the last meal has been cooked, and allow the corn to cook until the grain becomes soft yet not pappy. The corn is usually ready in the morning if put over a good fire in the evening, and allowed to stand until morning. This makes a good morning meal. Then charring or parching the corn, about half as much as coffee, serves the double purpose of a change of food (as in the dry heating process the starch is changed to dextrine as in toasting bread), and acts beneficially, the little charcoal on the outside of the corn after parching being especially good for the digestion. Doing this will prevent any land troubles due to the use of new corn.

Now is the time when your growing chickens give trouble. Poultry rearing cannot be satisfactorily done without having some enclosures in order to be able to separate the fowls at pleasure. The young cockerels should be separated from the hens and pullets just before they start to crow, and put by themselves. In this way they will grow quicker and if any have to be kept for breeding purposes they will be larger and stronger birds.

* * * * * *

For fattening birds, a little charcoal can be added to the food. Experiments have found that it helps the digestion of the other food; and birds with a little charcoal added to their other food shewed more gain than those not so fed.

* * * * * *

MOULTING.—Now is the season for fowls to moult, nnd during that period they should get a little assistance out of the ordinary. A trifle of sulphate of iron in the water helps them a lot. The best way to use sulphate of iron is to dissolve say a dessertspoonful in a quart of water and use a teaspoonful of the solution to every two quarts of water put down for the fowls to drink. In addition, a good drink for fowls might be made up by using one ounce of sulphur and three ounces charcoal. A teaspoonful of this mixture to every three or four fowls will do good. Do not forget to put Epsom Salts in the drinking water once a week, but if fowls can get water other than from the ordinary drinking vessels, put the Epsom Salts in soft food.

* * * * * *

EGGS.—Mr. C. C. Anderson, Island Treasurer, shipped eggs preserved in Water Glass (or Silicate of Soda) as a War Gift to Bishop Knoll's Hospital, Bristol, and we now have the acknowledgment before us of their safe arrival, only two being broken; the rest were all quite good.

The Commandant of the hospital wrote to Mr. Anderson as follows:—"Eggs are terribly dear at the present time, usually the cheapest time of the year to buy—

and any that you may be good enough to send me will be very greatly appreciated as we have to use eggs in such large quantities."

We are sorry to say that another lot of 120 eggs shipped by the S.S. "Cavina" in May, were lost through that vessel being submarined.

* * * * * *

POULTRY LICE.—The Government Entomologist has sent us the following note on this subject:—

In the JOURNAL of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for July, 1916, you published the formula of the Cornell Lice Powder for the information of your readers on this point.

With further reference to this note of mine, I desire to say that recent work at the Storr's Agricultural Experiment Station, Connecticut, by Mr. G. H. Lamson, Jnr., would show that such powders are not so effective against poultry lice as a mixture of Mecurial Ointment (one part) and Vaseline (two parts). The mecurial ointment and vaseline are placed on a sheet of glass or some such smooth surface and stirred and mixed up thoroughly with a knife. The mixture can be stored and used as required. A small piece little bigger than a pea is sufficient for each adult fowl. *Smear into the roots of the feathers beneath the vent (anus) and underneath* the wings. At times a little on the heads will do no harm. It is claimed this will keep the fowls clean of these external pests for from two to three months. Do not use this on broody hens, indeed it is best not to have used it for at least a month or two previous to setting. Substitute sweet oil for the ointment when treating chicks.

One can quite see that such ointments will remain effective for a much longer time as dusts are soon shaken out of the feathers of the fowls and so lost. At first one would not think this application of an ointment on restricted areas of the body would give results, but a trial will convince one of the efficiency of the remedy.

It should be stated that Mecurial Ointment is *not* Blue Ointment and the latter should ot be accepted as a substitute for making up the lice compound.

ARCHIBALD H. RITCHIE,
Government Entomologist,
28/6/17.

Mercurial ointment is certainly fatal to insect pests. It has been our rule with regard to poultry matters not to recommend anything of a poisonous nature as people are so careless when dealing with small stock. The above ointment should be used by those who know they will take care and keep the mercurial ointment under lock and key; at any rate not lying about carelessly. We prefer to use the good all round remedy, the lard, sulphur and kerosene paste which we have before recommended and which is very effective in killing and keeping off insect pests. For instance one application of this paste on the parts of those fowls affected by fowl ticks, is enough to kill these vile pests.

———:o:———

COMMENTS.

FOOD PROBLEM.—The United States Agricultural Papers are full of the food problem, and they certainlv know how to write impressive articles.

Mr. Herbert C. Hoover—originally a farmer in Iowa (U.S.A.) and who was the organizer of the "Belgian Relief" which loaded steamships with food and distributed this throughout Belgium—was on the United States entry into the War called back to America to be food adviser to President Wilson. After studying the food question in Europe, he cabled to the American people as follows in April last:—

"I feel it my duty to emphasize that the food situation is one of the utmost gravity, which unless it is solved, may possibly result in the collapse of everything we hold dear in civilization. The only hope of providing the deficiency is by the elimination of waste, and actual and rigorous self-sacrifice on the part of the Ameircan people. We must also plant everything and everywhere it will grow, or this time next year the food problem will be absolutely unsolvable, and the world will face absolute starvation."

* * * * *

To their credit, the American people have responded with extension

of cultivation in every direction, and favoured by good seasons on the whole, crops are reported to be in a most favourable condition. The most important crop, however—wheat—is not by any means a record crop, and it would require record crops everywhere wheat is grown, to give the world its ordinary supply of flour.

* * * * *

We should not allow ourselves to be lulled into a feeling of security as regards food, but in the planting season of August and September plant all the food crops we can.

———:o:———

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.—It has been arranged that Jamaica rum or any alcohol) can be purchased by the Ministry of Munitions to be used for munition purposes. The rum must be shipped by cargo steamer after the prescribed cargo has been provided for.

The price is 1/6 per proof gallon f.o.b. and an allowance of £2 10s. when new oak puncheons are provided by the contractors.

———:o:———

TREE PLANTING.—Although at this period we are most anxious for the planting of such products as are most necessary to our existence, and that is food crops, still we would remind those who have time and opportunity that it is good judgment, to continue planting trees such as will make good timber in any places available. Plenty of planters have rockstone land growing up in useless bush where trees such as cedar, mahoe, mahogany, etc., could be growing. Nurseries can be made at home to grow young trees, or the plants can be got from Hope Gardens.

Wherever there are streams, gullies or rivers, which come down in periodical floods, the banks should be planted with useful trees, for the triple purpose of growing timber, of protecting the banks, and shading the water course. Of late years owing to the good soils along river banks and the extension of banana growing, even the bamboos have been cut out, with the result that when water courses come down in floods, the water cuts through the banks, makes new courses, and causes great loss. It is wiser policy to keep the river banks buttressed with roots of trees. Even bamboos are most useful in this respect. All rocky hill tops should be devoted to tree growing, making sure that every tree will be of some use.

———:o:———

POTATOES.—We again repeat that so many people do not seem to read carefully what we write in preceding JOURNALS, and then are disappointed later on when they do not get what they want in the way of seeds. We remind those interested that we shall be importing seed potatoes as usual in October, and that the best planting season in the lowlands is during the first and second weeks in November, as soon as the heavy rains expected in the end of October and the beginning of November are over. Orders for seed potatoes should be therefore sent to us at once. We have written to learn what the crop prospects are for potatoes; present advices are that there will be good crops everywhere, so that we shall likely get supplies, though it is impossible to forecast what the prices will be. Time to prepare lands for planting in November is now. Turn the soil over roughly, and unless the land is good pastureland where the seed will rot and make good manure, collect all the manure possible to be used for ...ica

than "Irish" potatoes, and as we have so often emphasized any quick crop requires good conditions, and potatoes require rich soil and thorough cultivation.

———:o:———

SUGAR CANE.—The growing of sugar cane is probably more advanced in Hawaii than in any other cane-growing country. The manufacture of the sugar also is up-to-date. In spite of the difficulty of obtaining fertilizers, 85,000 tons were used in cane fields last year, whereas, in 1913, 62,000 tons only were used. No fewer than 104 tractor ploughs were in use. The tractor can pull 10 ordinary ploughs at one time, and cultivate 5 rows per trip, and cover 11 acres a day.

The Sugar Experiment Station employs a staff of 19 trained agriculturists whose business consists largely in conducting field experiments in various plantations.

———:o:———

CASHEW NUTS.—The cashew tree is a very valuable one, because it yields a fruit that is very wholesome, especially when preserved, and the nuts are always in demand. It is also a tree that withstands drought and prefers a dry climate. Plants can be obtained from Hope Gardens. As a matter of fact, anyone can raise his own plants by planting the seed in an old salmon or condensed milk tin, or preferably a bamboo pot.

———:o:———

PRODUCE.—As these are not ordinary times, it follows that ordinary rules and methods and procedure, cannot meet the general situation or any particlar situation that may occur.

It has been our business and duty to try and meet the food crisis. To a large extent any local food crisis would have been forestalled by the prompt notice given and the methods adopted by this Society in 1914, following up through its organization, if the hurricanes of 1915 and 1916 had not occurred. After these calamities there might easily have been a greater calamity, in an absolute lack of local foodstuffs, but for the prompt, systematic and organized efforts of this Society made through its Branch Societies and Agricultural Instructors. Within a month the particular needs of each district were reported upon and estimated, and supplies of seeds and plants organized; from districts where there was a sufficiency of one thing, supplies were sent to other districts where there was a scarcity; and where there was a general scarcity imported seeds cabled for and received, were supplied.

There is not now the likelihood of anything like famine, as the banana crops are coming in again, but unless we have abundance of storeable foods like corn, peas and beans, there might easily be great privation if another hurricane happened, not a remote contingency, and at any rate, always to be allowed for. Corn, peas and beans are at present our most valuable food crops, because they are concentrated and very nutritious foods which can be kept in quantities from crop to crop; indeed such a food product as cowpeas can be grown almost the year round which makes it very valuable to the community.

* * * * * *

Fortunately good seasons have prevailed so that crops usually are good so that the great fear of the producer lately has been that he may not be able to sell at a remunerative price what he has raised. In several small ways we helped to regulate prices, but not to such a general extent as would give confidence to those who have planted

on a large scale and are willing to plant again if they could only hav reasonable assurance of an outlay for their product at a reasonabl profitable price.

We have referred to the fact that we consider grains, such a corn, peas and beans, the most valuable products because they ca keep and are nutritious. All over the lowlands August and Septembe are the best months for planting such crops, yet in spite of the favourabl seasons that appear from all indications to be in prospect, plantei are hesitating to re-plant on an extensive scale. One great lack i Jamaica is storage room. Very few of the smaller planters are in position to keep a large quantity of any product, and so have to se their supplies quickly.

Looking to the present price of imported foodstuffs—which i spite of the favourable crops reported from our allied countries—ar not likely to be any lower in future so long as the war continues— it is necessary that we keep up production of foodstuffs here to th utmost extent; but it seems necessary also that there should at th same time be an organization and system in the disposal and storag of surplus products.

———:o:———

Sisal Hemp.—At the Government Farm at Lititz in St. Elizabeth a plantation of Sisal and Henequen fibre plants is being establishec The soil is about the very poorest that can be found in any part c Jamaica, and it is not poor simply because the climate is very dry it is naturally poor, and as it is savannah land, it has been mad poorer through the people continually running fire over it.

Both the Sisal and Henequen plants growing there are makin very satisfactory progress indeed; that we can vouch for after a persona visit. If these fibre plants grow well at Lititz, they will grow bette still in all the dry and stony parts of St. Elizabeth where there are mile of such lands that could be made, we are convinced, productive unde fibre plants.

As the plants at Lititz were not old enough to make a test of th fibre, it was suggested by the Instructors Committee of the Agricultura Society that the Secretary should get in the neighbourhood of Litit wild plants (of which there are many) growing under as nearly equa conditions as possible, except that at Lititz the plants are cultivate while the plants that we chose were growing in hedges. The leave of these plants were cut and sent up to the Sisal Hemp Factory a May Pen, and Mr. Stanley A. Anderson, the owner, has already re ported on the results. 40 lbs. of leaves yielded 1½ lbs. of fibre, o 3.75 per cent. 77 lbs. of leaves yielded 4½ lbs. of dried fibre, or a return of 5.84 per cent. As the leaves first sent were delayed befor being treated, a second test was made. The fibre was reported upo as being very long and strong, although discoloured through no being treated immediately on cutting.

These results are very satisfactory and promising of good result from the Lititz experiment.

———:o:———

Foods.—It is gratifying to know from the reports from the Unitec Kingdom and our allied countries, that crop prospects are all favourable Labour is scarce in Great Britain, and in order to enable crops to b reaped, large numbers of soldiers are detailed for duty on the land and school boys and school girls will be utilised to the utmost; Germa

prisoners are also being used, so that there is no fear of any crops being wasted through lack of help.

In the Spring there was a potato famine, when potatoes sold about a penny a piece to householders in some parts; as unfortunately hundreds of tons meant for troops, were wasted through blundering; and there was such a large demand for planting. About the beginning of July early potatoes were coming in in large quantities from the Channel Islands, and the South of England.

In the United States labour is being organized, and there is great patriotic fervour. Bands of women are in training for various kinds of work, and will be of the utmost value in agriculture.

Everything in agriculture depends upon the weather,and as this varies, all reports on crops vary from month to month. At the end of July, however, it is usually safe to predict what the results will be, and there is no fear now but that nearly all crops will be bountiful. The most important crop, however, wheat, while a good crop, is not large enough to make flour prospects more favourable than they have been during the present year. Corn is expected to be a bumper crop.

———:o:———

WAR GIFTS.—The Secretary of the West India Committee writes that the most acceptable gifts that could be sent over failing fruit, such as oranges and grapefruit, which are best of all, would be banana figs for the troops generally and the B.W.I. Regiment; Guava Jelly fof the hospitals; White Seal cigarettes for the B.W.I. Regiment, and hospital bags for hospitals.

GIFTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS.—We get so many enquiries on this subject that it seems necessary to repeat the information already published several times. We cannot forward any parcels addressed to individual soldiers or sailors—we ship only packages of appreciable size for military and naval hospitals, ships of the Fleet and Regiments in general. Parcels for individuals, carefully put up, must be sent by Parcel Post, through the Post Office, which accepts packages up to 11lbs. in weight, the charges being as follows:—

	To ENGLAND.	To FRANCE.	To EGYPT.
Up to 3 lbs. ..	1/-	1/8	1/8
Up to 7 lbs. ..	2/-	2/8	3/1
Up to 11 lbs. ..	3/-	3/7	4/6

Tobacco, in any form, goes duty free to any member of our Contingents or Colonial Regiments, but only to members of other Regiments (i.e., those belonging to the United Kingdom) on active service. Any gifts of this kind, however, *must be packed separately* from anything else.

All parcels should be clearly addressed with the number, rank, name, Company and Regiment of the soldier. If the whereabouts of the Regiment is not known, then "c/o War Office, London," must be added.

———:o:———

SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS—It is a good sign in these times then, even though no grants are given to the Parent Society; there

s a great desire to hold Agricultural Shows and to organize Agricultural Competitions. Two shows were held on the 1st of August and more Food Product Shows are being arranged, while quite a large number of Competitions are already in progress. The judging of the Cocoa Growing Competition in St. Mary takes place this month. In Upper Clarendon a prize of a heifer was offered by Mr. Lopez for the greatest amount of improvement on a holding during the year. The Instructor for this district adds "It is marvellous how much good a simple competition of this kind can effect in conjunction of course with the work of the Instructor."

There are also Corn Growing Competitions and Sweet Potato Competitions going on now.

A Show likely to be a useful one is the Grain Show and Fair to be held at May Pen on the 27th September. The Nain Branch of Southern St. Elizabeth are already preparing for a small Show they intend to hold in January, and the Upper St. David's Branch are making preparation for a Show they propose to hold at Yallahs also in February.

———o———

The Collector General's Report is from the Agricultural Society's point of view, the most important report of the year. It has come to hand too late for us to deal with it in this issue of the Journal which is already in print. At this time it is also the most interesting report to analyse as it deals with imports ond exports, and we shall attempt to review it in the next Journal and draw some conclusions from the figures.

———o———

BRANCH NOTES.

COOPER'S HILL (Portland.)—This Branch met on the 21st June, 1917. There were present: Messrs. E. A. Gunter, Instructor; Jos. Micklejohn, V.P., presiding; the Secretary and 13 others members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A Circular letter was read *re* available lands for cultivation. The need exists here, hence the Government will be asked to secure portions from the Golden Vale property in the neighbourhood, or otherwise to grant a tract into the Crown Lands. Mr. S. R. Mitchell was appointed delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting, and will submit the above. It was decided to have a Competition Day for the school children on which prizes will be distributed for the best vegetables grown. A lively discussion followed on Praedial Larceny. It was the concensus of opinion that the time has come for the Government to adopt drastic measures to check the prevailing evil. The Instructor gave his views and the meeting adjourned.

S. LEO. MCDONALD, Secretary.

REACH (Portland.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 3rd July, 1917. There were present: C. A. Currie, President; the Secretary, . A. Wates, Esq., Instructor, and 15 other members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was dealt with; the Secretary presented his report for the year. Treasurer's account, showing a balance to the credit of the Branch, one pound and three pence, was presented and passed. The Secretary was requested to write asking the members to pay their subscriptions. The President urged on members the necessity for attending the meetings and the benefits derived from being members of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The Instructor addressed the members on the food supply of the Island at present and urged upon this Society the need for great activity in planting different food crops. He pointed out that if the small cultivators would adopt the system of putting up their sugar in barrels instead of tins they would be better remunerated. The Instructor gave notice of a demonstration at Mrs. John Currie's yard on the second Tuesday in August. The meeting was brought to a close with [illegible]

[illegible] etary.

BELVEDERE (Portland.)—At the General Meeting held on July 6th, six members and the Secretary were present. President being absent, Vice-President Vassall took the Chair. After reading the minutes, correspondence was dealt with. Praedial larceny was discussed. It was thought that constables should be given power to visit business places in the country and arrest idlers and gamblers at such places between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. It was agreed to purchase a corn mill at 30/-, each person subscribing 1/6. Absent members to be notified of this. It was thought by several that if the Branch had a corn mill it would be a stimulus to the planting of corn in the district. Secretary said he was expecting the Instructor as he got no note from him cancelling his visit, but unfortunately he had not turned up. He demonstrated at Mr. Whorms' on the 20th ult. pruning cocoa. Two resolutions drafted for sending to the Parent Society:—(a) Resolved that praedial thieves be employed by the Public Works, especially in opening up crown lands, and the government recompense the person whose goods were stolen; (b) Authorized Persons be given power to arrest idlers and gamblers at business places in the country between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.; also an increased remuneration. M. Harris reported two arrests. After dealing with a few minor matters, the meeting terminated.

R. J. LAWSON RICKETTS, Secretary.

SWIFT RIVER (Portland.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Mt. Olivet on the 10th July. There were present: The President, 14 members and one visitor. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom dealt with. The subject of Authorized Persons was deferred to next meeting. It was decided to send a delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting. At this juncture the roll was called. Names of 8 new members had been added since last meeting. The singing of the National Anthem, brought the meeting to a close.

D. N. PARKER, Secretary.

PRESTON (St. Mary.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Friday 28th June, 1917. The regular meeting was to be on the 8th June, but owing to rain it could not be held. The President presided. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Instructor was present. The President was nominated as a candidate to fill one of the vacancies on the Board of Management of the Parent Society. Correspondence was read and dealt with. Mr. N. Amiel said he had some pigs four months old and they all died from swollen head and he would like to know the cause of the sickness. The Secretary was instructed to find out whether the members are using the Society's sprayer and if so how much is collected from it. The Secretary was appointed delegate to the half yearly meeting of the Parent Society on the 26th July. The subject of the cause of praedial larceny was discussed. The Instructor gave notice of various visits to be paid during the month. Raymond Brown, Authorized Person reported having made three arrests. It is the desire of this Society that the name of Ezekiel Brown be removed from the list of Authorized Persons for neglect of duty. Inquiry was made as to the minimum age at which children are allowed to sell produce, and it was found that no child under 16 years is allowed to sell produce. The stealing of cocoa pods is on the increase and it is hoped that steps will be taken to check this evil. The Secretary was instructed to write Mr. Alexr. Robertson to make a return of the amount raised from the Society's Grind Stone kept by him. Other minor matters were dealt with and the meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem. Next meeting, July 13th.

I. McK. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

ALBANY (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Friendship on the 4th July. There were present: Messrs. L. S. Clarke in the Chair; I. L. Saunders, W. Cradwick (Instructor) and 28 other members. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discussed, after which correspondence was dealt with. *Re* Praedial Larceny, much discussion arose over the flogging of thieves. Some members thought it was cruel and savage whilst others held the opposite idea. It was put to the vote and lost—7 for and 21 against. Four Authorized Persons were present. Three had nothing to report, the other reported three arrests with three convictions. Three new members joined the Society. The meeting adjourned with the National Anthem.

R. S. YOUNG, Secretary.

BROADGATE (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting was held in the School room, 4th July, 1917. Present: Messrs. M. E. Henriques, President; J. Radway Vice-President; R. P. Thomson, Treasurer, eight other members and the Secretary Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom dealt

neans of insuring better attendance at monthly meetings, the meeting day be changed rom first Wednesday to the first Saturday in each month. A short discussion on he subject of a Corn Mill followed. Being late it was decided to resume the subject t the next meeting. After the singing of the National Anthem, the meeting adourned. R. ADOLPHUS CRANSTON, Secretary.

CENTRAL ST. Mary.—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held n the Eliot Schoolroom on the 5th July, 1917. Present: Rev. F. W. Core, President, residing; twelve other members and some visitors. Apology for absence was reeived from the Instructor, Wm. Cradwick, Esq. The minutes of the regular meeting n the 3rd May and special meeting on the 12th June were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The necessity of having double-dialled cales for use in the shops in the interest of agricIture and the General Public was rought before the meeting, and a resolution on the subject to be forwarded to the Governor was passed. The Secretary reminded the meeting that the time for sending 1 the new list of names for paid up subscriptions to the JOURNALS for the current ear was passed and that he could wait no longer. Meeting adjourned with the nging of the National Anthem. F. A. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

UPPER METCALFE (St. Mary.)—The postponed annual meeting of this Branch as held in the Brainerd School Room on the 9th July. The Officers, Agricultural nstructor, eighteen members and a few visitors were present. Minutes of last meeting ere read and confirmed and correspondence dealt with. After some discussion on atters arising out of the minutes, the following resolution passed unanimously:— That in view of the fact that owing to the war existence depends largely on the roduction of food stuffs in the island and that most of the peasants of our Island ultivate only lands rented from large proprietors. Be it resolved that the Government e asked to make the position of tenants more secure as since 1913 one property not any miles from here twice dismissed all tenants." The Chairman was appointed elegate to the next Half Yearly Meeting. All the officers of the Society were relected. Treasurer's Report showed a net balance of £2 8s. up to 31st March, 1917. The Instructor exhibited some very large ears of corn produced from Belfield and npressed on the members the necessity of planting good seeds even when the price f the seeds appeared high. He said the labour would in every way be the same nd the result would more than justify the small additional expenditure. Mr. Cradwick dealt with the preservation of seeds by carbon bi-sulphide and naphthaline. A committee consisting of the officers of the Society was appointed to make arrangeents for the purchasing of a corn mill for the benefit of the members and also to rrange for an Agricultural Social in August. Singing of National Anthem brought he meeting to a close. W. T. EDWARDS, Secretary.

ENFIELD (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch came off t the Enfield School Room on the 12th July. There were present Mr. R. D. Sibblies, n the Chair; J. H. Gillespie, Secretary and several other members. After the conrmation of the Minutes, praedial larceny came up again for discussion, and a resoluion embodying the ideas of the Branch on this subject has been forwarded to the Governor. Mr. T. R. Beckford moved that the Government be asked through his Branch to sanction a Police Station at Enfield as the youths are getting lawless.
J. H. GILLESPIE, Secretary.

CAVE RIVER (St. Ann.)—The annual meeting of this Branch which had been ostponed was held in the Aenon Town Schoolroom on the 30th June. Besides the resident, Secretary and Treasurer, there were fourteen members and five visitors resent. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed and corresondence read and discussed. After the giving of reports by the Authorized Persons resent, who had secured several convictions, Messrs. Sappleton and Avis, two f our Authorized Persons asked the following questions (a) Whether there was ny provision in the law for protecting an Authorized Person who is obstructed in he performance of his duty? (b) In the case of unlawful possession who is to pay r the conveyance of goods, especially when the prisoner is handcuffed? The advice f the Secretary of the Parent Society on the matter was thought necessary. After vote of thanks to the officers for their services had been given, the election of officers r the current year took place and resulted as follows:—Mr. P. W. Palmer, President; Mr. J. W. Wallace, Vice-President; Mr. W. H. Clarke, Secretary and Treasurer. After the officers had returned thanks for their election, Mr. W. H. Clarke was ppointed as delegate to represent the Branch at the next Half Yearly General Meeting. The meeting closed in the usual way.
W. H. CLARKE, Secretary.

GUY'S HILL (St. Ann.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was hel on Thursday, 19th July. Present: Rev. W. H. B. Carter, (V.P.); Messrs. (Irvine (V.P.); nine members, a few visitors, and the Secretary. The Presider being absent Mr. C. Irvine, Senior V.P., was called to the Chair. The minut of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discusse Mr. Irvine was the only Authorized Person present. He reported favourably of h district. The Secretary suggested more diligent reading and occasional discussion articles in the Journals. He further suggested the purchase of a grind stone or set of tools, specially those suited for treating cocoa. He impressed on membe the advisability of cultivating a patch of China bananas, as some few wise cultivato have been doing. Rev. Carter thought it would be more satisfactory to give notic of expenditure to be made out of the funds of the Society, and as all agreed th a set of tools would likely prove very useful it was decided that the members prese make it as widely known as possible that at the next meeting a resolution to th effect will be moved. The agenda for the Half Yearly Meeting in Kingston, w read and discussed. It was suggested that the Secretary be asked to run over h minutes some time before the meeting and have matters arising therefrom ready t be dealt with. The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

W. E. WATSON, Secretary.

HOPEWELL (Hanover.)—The regular bi-monthly meeting of this Branch w held in the Bethel Schoolroom on the 6th July, 1917. Present: E. E. Melvill Esq., President; R. C. Somerville, Instructor, and 15 other members. Minutes last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom discusse The Secretary reported that forms had been sent him from the Secretary of th Parent Society and instructions to enter nominations for position of Authorize Persons. The President explained the proposal *re* conscription of land, and tol what he had done in the matter. He pointed out that because there were runs uncultivated lands in the district this is no indication that sufficient plantin operations are not going on. Then people could not manage additional lands t work, even if it were given free as their time, capital and energy was all investe Moved by Mr. A. Shaw Samuels, seconded by Mr. R. M.cFarlane: The membe of this Branch are of the opinion that they can make satisfactory terms with surroun ing large land owners for all the rented lands that they are able to work withou capital, which is beyond their reach. Mr. A. Shaw Samuels was elected to atten the half Yearly Meeting, which he generously agreed to do at his own expense, th funds of the Society being low. E. E. Melville, Esq., the esteemed President this Branch, was nominated to serve on the Board of Management of the Jamai Agricultural Society. The Instructor read the prize list of the Lucea Sho and the members expressed their willingness to compete. The Preside moved that a grant be made to the fund from our balance, and the members vot £1. The following gentlemen voluntarily subscribed in aid of the Show: E. Melville, Esq., 5/-; Mr. Walker, 1/-; Mr. R. Rigg, 2/-; Mr. Mowatt, 1/-; Mr. G. Samuels, 1/-; Mr. E. H. Bell, 1/-; Mr. W. H. Rigg, 1/-; Mr. H. Shaw Samuels, 1/ Mr. R. MarcFlane, 1/-. The members present consented to the sale of the present small mill to Miss Davidson, and that a more powerful mill be got for t Society. After this, the meeting was brought to a close by singing the Nation Anthem.

W. HOLLAND RIGG, Secretary.

GREEN ISLAND (Hanover.)—The regular monthly meeting was held on t 10th July. Present: Rev. A. B. Mullings, President; Mr. H. Clare, Vice-Presiden the Secretary and about twenty-three other members. The minutes of last meeti were read and confirmed. Six Authorized Persons were present, and presented th reports. No arrests have been made, but many thefts have been prevented. M J. Z. Malcolm, of Cave Valley resigned his position as Authorized Person, and M James Reid of Salt Spring was duly nominated as a likely person for the positio Several of the Authorized Persons complained of not getting handcuffs, and ma of the members have not received any Journals at all since they have joined. T following resolution was passed by the meeting for transmission to the Half Year General Meeting to be held on the 26th inst.: "That the system of land tenan for cultivating purposes be considered with the view that cultivators be encourag to put in permanent crops, that lengthened terms of tenancy be fixed; and th compensation be given for permanent improvement to the land.

T. C. THOMPSON, Secretary.

WHITEHOUSE (Westmoreland.)—A meeting of this Branch was held in t Schoolroom (Kings) on July 3rd. Present: R. E. Touzalin, Esq., Presiden

Messrs. A. G. Logan MacLeod, J.P. (V.P.); Instructor Somerville, C. Percival Bromfield (Secretary), and about twenty other members. Three new members were added. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and matters arising therefrom dealt with. Correspondence was read and discussed. It was agreed that no delegate be sent up from this Branch to the Half Yearly General Meeting. The Secretary informed the meeting that information had reached him that several members were opposed to evening meetings and thought the matter should be dealt with. It was decided to hold the next meeting at 7 a.m. on the 7th prox., and that time of meeting whether morning or evening, be in the future, announced at the previous meeting. The meeting then adjourned after which the Co-operative Society met for business. Subscriptions amounting to £13 odd were paid in and applications for loans dealt with. This Society is destined to success. It is *growing*!

C. PERCIVAL BROMFIELD, Secretary.

WALDENSIA (Trelawny.)—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 13th July. Present: The President; Mr. M. Rennie, Instructor; 20 other members and a large attendance of visitors, among them was Dr. S. T. Vine of Falmouth. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A new member was elected. A letter was read from Mr. Henry James in which he tendered his resignation as an Authorized Person owing to ill health. Messrs. James Whitley and Samuel Highman were recommended by the meeting to become Authorized Persons or the District. Dr. Vine, after being introduced to the meeting, gave a lecture on Hygiene. In conclusion a vote of thanks was moved to the Doctor by the Chairman, seconded by the Instructor, to which the lecturer replied suitably. The singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

N. A. LIVINGSTON, Secretary.

MAY PEN (Clarendon.)—On the 5th July, 1917, this Branch met. There were present, Messrs. S. M. DeRoux, President, and several members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The subject of the forthcoming show was dealt with at length. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The subject of the likely low prices for corn and peas owing to the quantity planted, came in for a great deal of discussion. A resolution fixing the minimum prices was passed to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and the Parent Society. The sugar cane industry was also warmly discussed—the vast acreage under cultivation and the probable inability of the factories in the immediate districts to handle all the canes cultivated. The Secretary was instructed to approach The Lindo Bros. to find out whether they would purchase canes at the May Pen Railway Station on a five per cent. basis. A resolution requesting that the Railway carry canes at d. per ton per mile was passed to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and the Parent Society. The meeting adjourned then with the singing of the National Anthem.

T. C. ROBINSON, Secretary.

BLACKWOODS (Clarendon.)—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Mt. Hume Schoolroom on July 5th, 1917. Present: Messrs. R. A. Thomas, President; S. A. Schleifer, Instructor; F. Boothe, Vice-President; T. S. Burrell, Treasurer; Secretary, 16 other members and two visitors, one of whom afterwards became a member. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The President who was empowered to buy a grindstone at the last meeting, apologised for not doing so. On the advice of the Instructor, it was decided to buy a 30 ins. one from Messrs. Thos. Abrahams and Co. The Treasurer reported a balance of 15/10½ in hand. Many members paid in their subscriptions, others made promises, and the members present promised to look up the absent ones. The buying of a cornmill for the Society was postponed owing to lack of funds. The Instructor advised the members to co-operate and buy one. This was agreed to. Correspondence from the Parent Society was read. Owing to lack of funds, it was decided not to send a delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting. Discussion on land lying idle took place, but it was found that this question did not apply to this district. The Instructor congratulated the members on the well kept fields that he saw in the district and encouraged them to plant more. He explained fully the regulations governing the May Pen Show and encouraged the members to send exhibits. Mr. Thomas Brown was nominated as an Authorized Person. The Secretary was instructed to write for forms. The Instructor promised that at the next meeting he will speak on Prize Holdings. The Secretary also instructed to write for some pumpkin seeds for the use of the Society. The sum of 2/- was proposed to be spent for the purchase of necessary books, etc. Some minor matters were dealt with and the meeting terminated.

P. E. CAREY, Secretary.

BRANDON HILL (Clarendon.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 23rd July. There were present, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, Assistant Secretary; a fair number of members, and Mr. Schleifer, Agricultural Instructor. The minutes were read and confirmed. Mr. G. Bailey was appointed a delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. It was decided to hold the proposed "Social" on the 16th prox. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The valuation of damage by stock came in for some discussion. It was the opinion of the members that the Government should be asked to appoint valuators in each district, the District Constable, or Authorized Persons, and to fix a fee to be charged for valuation. The Instructor dealt at length with the proposed May Pen Grain Show. A Committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Vice-President and Mr. A. Lewis was appointed to stir up the members to get up exhibits for the Show. The meeting terminated in the usual way.

J. N. LEWIS, Secretary

APPLETON (St. Elizabeth.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Siloah on 13th July. There were present: Mr. J. A. Causwell, Secretary; 6 other members and Mr. Powell, the Instructor. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Mr. Robt. Turner was voted to the Chair. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes, matters arising out of same were dealt with. Some of the members were not in favour of the change from bi-monthly to monthly meetings. It was however, decided to give latter a further trial. Correspondence was read and discussed. A lengthy discussion next took place on our food supply, after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Be it resolved: That in view of the possible shortage of foodstuffs that the Government take steps, now that a fairly large crop of corn is on, to purchase all the corn available at the current prices, complete the drying and store same to sell back to the people later at a reasonable price, should it be required for food. Next came the demonstration on the making of Farine by the Instructor. This was highly appreciated by all present. The Instructor was given a vote of thanks. The meeting then adjourned until the 10th August.

N. A. BROWN, Secretary.

GINGER HILL (St. Elizabeth.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on July 13th at the usual place, when there were present twenty-five members, three visitors, and the Secretary. Mr. E. L. Salmon (V.P.) presided. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of the previous minutes *re* good lands lying waste and potato slips were dealt with. The Chairman emphasized greatly the necessity for large provision fields which created a great discussion as to what was the best time for cutting yams to produce the best results for planting. Correspondence from the Secretary of the Parent Society and from the Merrywood Branch was submitted and dealt with. Two resolutions were passed and Mr. E. L. Salmon was appointed delegate to send up to the General Half Yearly Meeting, July 26th. It was agreed to defray the delegate's expenses. Time for next meeting was fixed for August 10th. The National Anthem was sung and the meeting adjourned.

ROBERT L. GORDON, Secretary.

PORUS (Manchester.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on July 2nd, 1917. The President being absent, the Chair was taken by the Hon. and Rev. W. B. Esson, V.P. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The Instructor, Mr. Thos. Powell, who was present, explained the Law governing Authorized Persons, and their pay, and it was decided that all the Authorized Persons be invited to attend the next meeting when the Law would he more fully explained. The Rev. Esson suggested the getting of a corn mill and a subscription list be opened, but the members thought that the mill should be bought from the Society's funds. The matter was dropped. The Instructor said that one bushel of corn would give 60 lbs. of meal. An enquiry *re* the best method of preserving corn was answered by the Instructor, who advised the use of Napthalene. It was suggested that the Government buy all the corn in the parish and if necessary sell it back to the people at one shilling above the price that it was bought for; a resolution to this effect was passed. Many members complained of worms eating cabbages. The Instructor suggested buying slug shot. Three new members were elected. The Instructor was asked many questions on the improvement of cultivations and kitchen gardens. The meeting adjourned until next month.

C. ROWLAND, Secretary.

BROADLEAF (Manchester.)—The monthly meeting took place on the 3rd July, 1917. Twenty members were present. An apology for absence from the Instructor was read by the President. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

A new member was elected and forthwith appointed corresponding Secretary. Extracts from the Journal were read and discussed. The subject of praedial larceny its causes and cure was also discussed. G. G. McDONALD, Secretary.

MILE GULLY (Manchester.)—At a meeting of this Branch held on July 6th the President, Mr. C. F. Pengelley occupied the Chair, and there were present fifteen members, a few visitors and the Secretary. It was decided that Mr. S. A. Swaby should represent the Branch at the Half Yearly Meeting of the Parent Society. Three new members were elected and three of the members were nominated to be Authorized Persons. The Society feels that if suitable men were appointed to be Authorized Persons in each district praedial larceny would be checked. There was an interesting discussion regarding the possibility of regulating the selling price of corn, and it was thought that owing to present conditions brought about by the war the price this year would not be so low as it had been in other years. A revolution was passed asking the Government to reduce the gun license to 4/-, so as to enable many of the settlers to buy guns for the purpose of shooting hawks and mongoose which are preventing poultry-rearing. The next meeting is to be held on August 10th. The proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

REV. P. CHAPERLIN, Secretary.

CRAIGHEAD (Manchester.)—At the usual monthly meeting of this Branch the attendance was good. The Secretary read an apology for absence due to illness from the Chairman. The Secretary spoke on the subject of the food supply for the country and the probability of future complications in the event of a cyclone this year. A resolution *re* the advisability of the Government's purchasing all the corn available from the present crops so that it would be obtainable for human consumption should the necessity arise, was unanimously passed. The Secretary next brought up the matter of a corn mill. He felt that if one were to be secured by the Society it would be of considerable advantage to the members. The price of cornmeal was abnormally high and a great saving could be effected by the use of our own machine. The matter was favourably discussed, but definite action was deferred to the next meeting. The Secretary stated that there was a feeling that the Authorized Persons were not as diligent as they might be. The Society had reasons to expect greater vigilance on their part. Messrs. Graham and Freckleton, Authorized Persons, spoke in their defence and both expressed their intention to resign from the appointment. The next meeting was fixed for the 1st Friday in August, when the Instructor is expected to be present. E. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

BROWN'S HALL (St. Catherine.)—A meeting of this Branch was held on the 25th July. Besides the Rev. G. L. Young (President) there were three members, two visitors and the Secretary. The minutes of the last meeting held in February were read and confirmed. The President, in addressing the meeting, expressed regret on the demise of the late Mr. George Thomas, the first Vice-President, who was a staunch member of the Society. It was decided that a letter of condolence be sent to the nearest relatives of the deceased deploring the loss sustained by the Society. The annual election of officers next took place. The Rev. G. L. Young was re-elected President and Mr. J. M. Cousins, Secretary and Treasurer. The appointment of a Vice-President was deferred for a fuller meeting. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The annual report on the work of the Society was presented. A vigorous discussion next followed upon the keeping up of the usefulness of the Society. Among other things it was decided to admit women into the Society at half the usual subscription. The meeting then adjourned to the second Wednesday in August. J. M. COUSINS, Secretary.

SEAFIELD (St. Catherine.)—This Branch met in the Seafield Schoolroom on the 31st July. Those present were: Rev. J. G. Peterkin, J.P., President; Messrs. B. Forest, Vice-President; C. E. Johnson, Secretary; Mrs. G. Peterkin, Treasurer; eight other members, and 7 visitors. The President who was delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting held on the 26th July, presented a very interesting report. Other matters dealt with were: The Praedial Larceny question, sugar industry, Authorized Persons. The question of having a combined show with the Windsor Castle-Carron Hall Society next came up. After some discussion, it was agreed that a deputation be sent to Windsor Castle to confer with the members of that Society. Two new members were elected. Meeting terminated wih the singing of the National Anthem.-

C. E. JOHNSON, Secretary.

MONTPELIER (St. James.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch Society was held on the 5th July. The 12th was chosen as the day for the annual meeting

which was long delayed owing to constant inclement weather. In the absence of the President, Rev. E. Leo Jones, Mr. Geo. White, one of the Vice-Presidents, presided. At the election of officers for the current year, all the old ones present were re-elected. Mr. Henry Miller was elected in place of Mr. David Dunn as a V.P., and Mr. J. B. Ewers as Assistant Secretary in place of Mr. F. E. Richards, resigned. The Instructor was again absent, but the meeting was well attended and much interest was evinced. Eight members paid in their subscriptions. Six visitors were among the audience The days are now fair and very warm. J. N. MORRIS, Secretary.

THORNTON (St. James.)—The regular monthly meeting was held in the schoolroom on the 11th July. Ten members were present. Mr. N. A. Patterson presided. The Authorized Persons presented their reports which showed that praedial larceny is not very prevalent in this district. Several new members were admitted and matters of local importance dealt with. JAS. BROWN, Secretary.

SOMERSET (St. Thomas.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at Somerset Schoolroom 3rd July, 1917, 5 p.m. There were present 21 members, 8 visitors, A. P. Hanson, Esq., travelling Instructor, and the President, W. B. Wilson, Esq. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Five new members were elected. The subject of Land for Cultivation was again explained by the Instructor. Teacher Black, V.P., and Manager of the Penny Bank, addressed the meeting and strongly appealed for more depositors. The Authorized Persons' reports were given from which the following question arose. Will an Authorized Person get free process for maltreatment? The Secretary was instructed to write for the necessary information. Mr. Hanson gave an enthusiastic address on Practical Agriculture. Demonstrations in this district were rendered impossible by the number of calls that the Instructor had on his way thither, which is proof positive of the increasing desire on the part of the people to learn more modern methods of cultivation. The meeting was brought into a close by singing of the National Anthem. JAS. A. TELFER, Secretary.

LOWER ST. DAVID'S (St. Thomas.)—This Branch held its regular monthly meeting in the Yallahs Church Hall on Saturday, 7th July. Present: Chairman, all other officers, nine members and two visitors, who afterwards became members. All members present received their share of rice for "Dry Land" planting. Correspondence was read. The matter of the proposed Agricultural Show was now dealt with. The Secretary of the Show Committee reported that there had been no correspondence regarding this. The Treasurer was then instructed to supply the stationery. After other minor matters were dealt with, the meeting adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem. M. E. BARRANT, Secretary.

CAMBRIDGE-WOODFORD (St. Andrew.)—At a meeting of this Branch held on 5th July, 1917, there were present, Mr. R. Watson, Vice-President, who presided; the Secretary and seven other members. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of last meeting the Secretary read notice of the Half Yearly General Meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. The Rev. S. T. A. Jones was elected delegate. The Secretary read list of members for current year. It was agreed that a cornmill should be purchased for the use of the members. The Secretary promised to get from Mr. Barclay the price of a reliable mill and to report to next meeting when the matter would be definitely settled. Meeting adjourned in the usual manner to Thursday, 2nd August. R. A. CLARE, Secretary.

PORT ROYAL MOUNTAINS (St. Andrew.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Mt. Fletcher Schoolroom on July 28th. There were present, nine members, the President and Secretary. The usual formalities having been gone through, the matter of a Justice of the Peace for the district was again discussed. The matter of application for Mr. Jas. Kelly of Hagley Gap to be an Authorized Person was brought up. Several months having passed without anything being heard it was decided that Mr. Barclay be written and reminded of the matter. The members who had received peas on share from the Parent Society reported that drought and wind had caused a blight hence the returns were poor. Several members spoke warmly and feelingly on the matter. This became more marked when the Secretary pointed out that in no case up to the present had a member made a return of as much as the quantity received. The next item was the Delegate's report of the Half Yearly General Meeting of the Parent Society. Mr. Jacob N. Hall reported that the Society's billy was now doing a little better since he has rid him of lice. The President reminded members to settle their subscriptions and the meeting adjourned until August 25th. N. A. GRAY, Secretary.

MT. JAMES (St. Andrew.)—At a meeting of this Branch held on the 14th July there were present, Messrs. Chas. Richards, President; S. A. L. West, Secretary and a good number of members. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Chas. Edwards was unanimously elected to attend the next Half Yearly Meeting as delegate of the Branch. Four new members were elected. The following questions came up for discussion:—1. The formation of an Anti-Larceny League, supported by the Branch, the object of which is to provide a fund from which suitable rewards can be given to those who bring to light and to justice praedial thieves. The purchasing of a ram, by the Branch to improve the breed of goats in the district. 3. The holding of an annual social. It was decided that those matters be placed on the agenda for next meeting for further discussion. The meeting closed with the National Anthem. SAML. A. L. WEST, Secretary.

BELVEDERE (Portland)—At the meeting held 10th August, eight members, the Instructor and the Secretary were Present. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence showed that Mr. Barclay was notified from March re Mr. Dawkins resignation as Authd. Constable. As no reply came he was written to a second time when he sent to say that handcuffs and badges are to be given to the Police. The Instructor explained that as he has now to visit St. Mary he might not be with us as often as formerly, he read a piece from the Gleaner 9th, on "Food Question" he explained that "Food will win the war," then we ought to plant for all we are worth. Speaking for near half an hour he gave sound advice and was applauded. The President moved and the Society en block, endorsed the resolution of sympathy tendered the Instructor re the recent illess in his family. Commenting on the Instructors remarks, the President urged all to plant extensively and so help to mitigate the impending food scare which might be the outcome of the bloody struggle now raging. A picnic is on foot in aid of the Society those present constituting a Committee re the Picnic. Constable Walsh reports no arrests. Business being through, the President confessed he was feeling ever so much better for having come to the meeting. His time was well spent. Mr. Newland spoke in like terms and others followed. He also asked each man to try to bring a member to swell the ranks. Three members paid in their subscriptions.

R. J. LAWSON RICKETTS, Secretary.

Notes have also been received from the following Branches:—Epsom, Tryall Hill, Rock River and Mt. Regale (St. Mary); St. John's and St. John's, Upper (St. Catherine); Mocho and Brixton Hill (Clarendon); Duncans and Jackson Town (Trelawny.)

Through the printers' error, notes from the following Branches (which are too much out of date now to be published) were omitted from the July Journal:—Nonsuch and Mt. Hermon (Portland); Green Island (Hanover); Tower Hill (St. James); Bath, Aeolus Valley and Thornton (St. James) Maidstone, Comfort Hall, Christiana and Mizpah (Manchester); Brompton (St. Elizabeth); Claremont (St. Ann); Warsop and Waldensia (Trelawny); Spanish Town (St. Catherine).

We would like to point out that the Branch Secretaries are responsible for a great deal of the dissatisfaction *re* the non-insertion of Branch Notes in the Journal. The following points must be borne in mind:—(1) That there are 167 Branches of the Society and the space reserved in the Journal (8 pages) will only admit of the insertion of a proportion of the notes received each month. These we endeavour to publish so that each Branch sending in notes shall have a turn every two or three months. (2) Very often notes of a meeting held at the beginning of one month, are sent in at the end of the next and by the time the Journal is issued, they are nearly three months old. It is useless to print matter so much out of date, and in future the rule that only those notes will be published which are received within ten days of the date of the meeting, will be more closely adhered to. (3) Notes are very often diffuse and report speeches when they should be concise minutes.

NOTE—Those requiring Seed Corn may obtain it from us.

Potatoes for November planting should be ordered now.

The booklet on coffee planting by H. Q. Levy is now published and should be procured by every small-holder. Price 3d. per copy.